

## BAPPA RAWAL

He was known as a hardworking, honest young cowherd, but Bappa Rawal's bearing and talents were that of a well-bred prince. And one day he was to unite the divided Rajput clans to regain their lost glory. This gallant 8th century ruler of Chittor lived to be a hundred years old, enjoying his last years in the tranquillity of the remote Himalayas.

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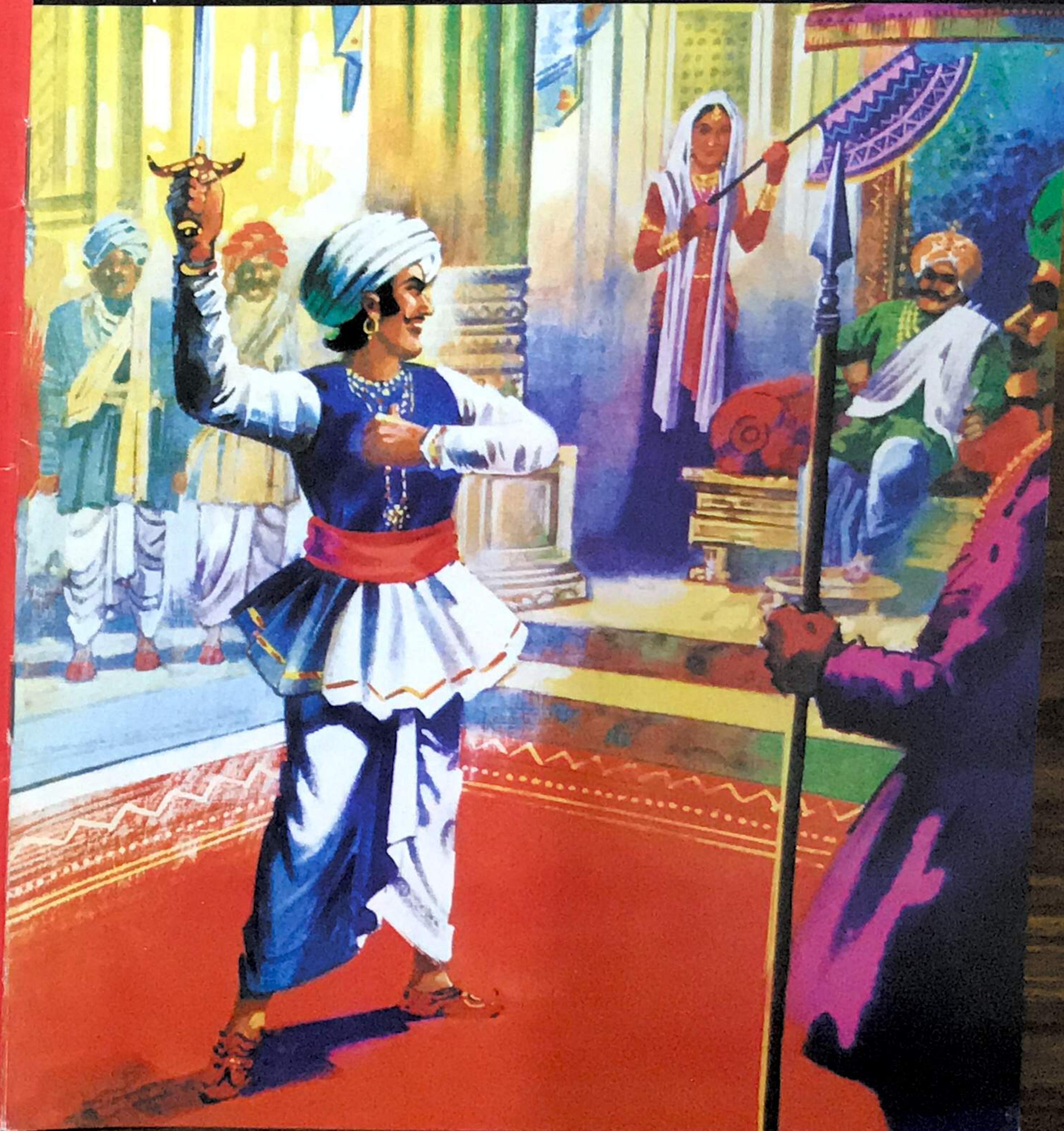
BRAVEHEARTS



# BAPPA RAWAL

A GREAT RAJPUT HERO

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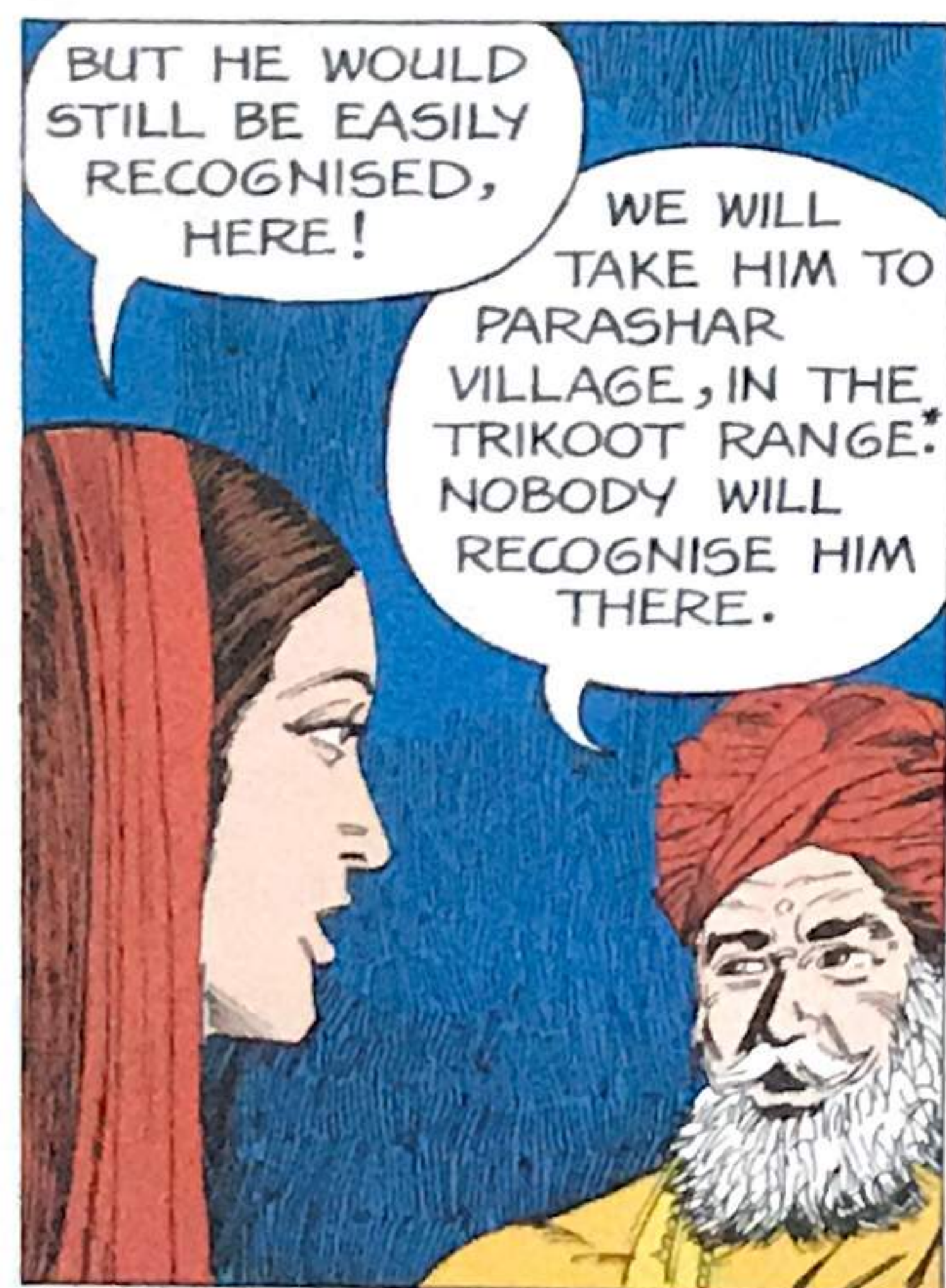
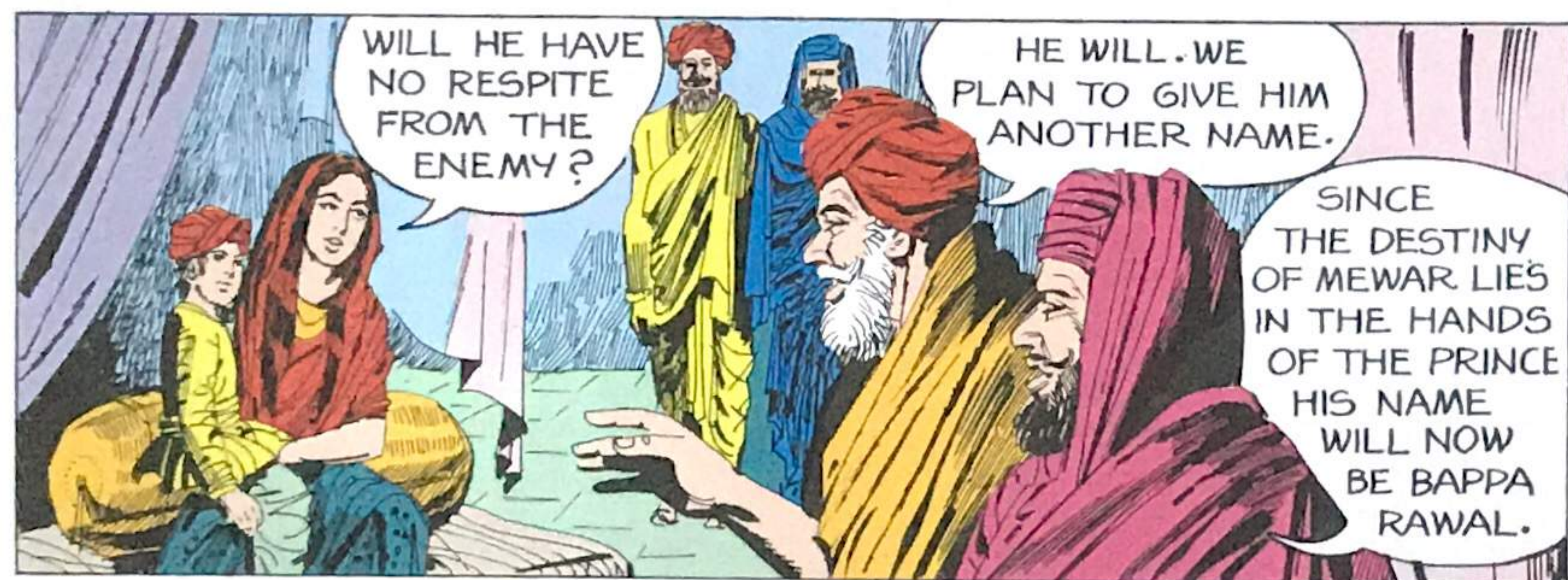


# BAPPA RAWAL

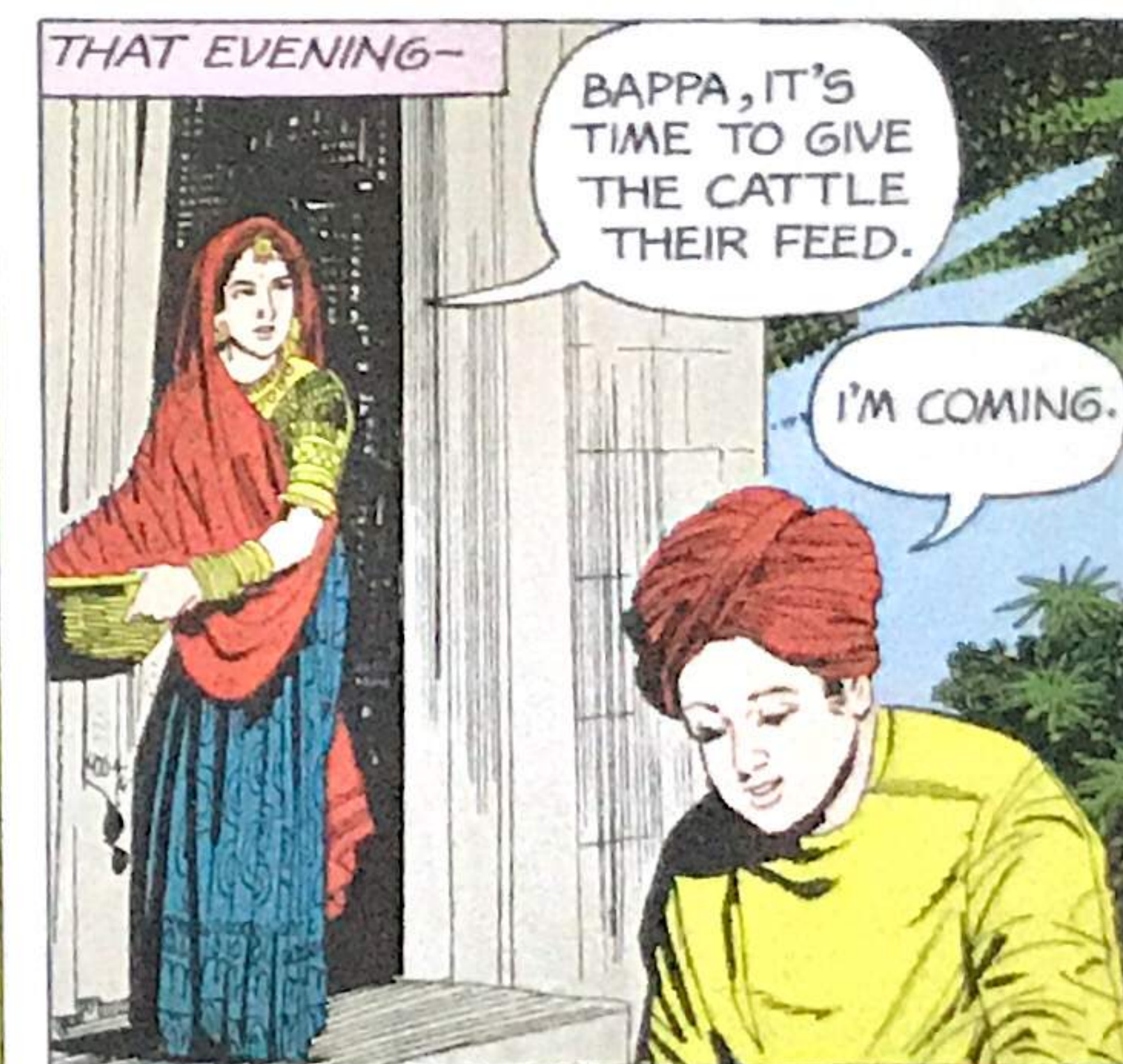


IN THE 8TH CENTURY, WHILE FOREIGN ENEMIES MOUNTED INVASION AFTER INVASION ON THE WESTERN PARTS OF INDIA, THE INDIAN RULERS CONTINUED TO WASTE AWAY THEIR STRENGTH IN FIGHTING EACH OTHER FOR SELFISH ENDS.

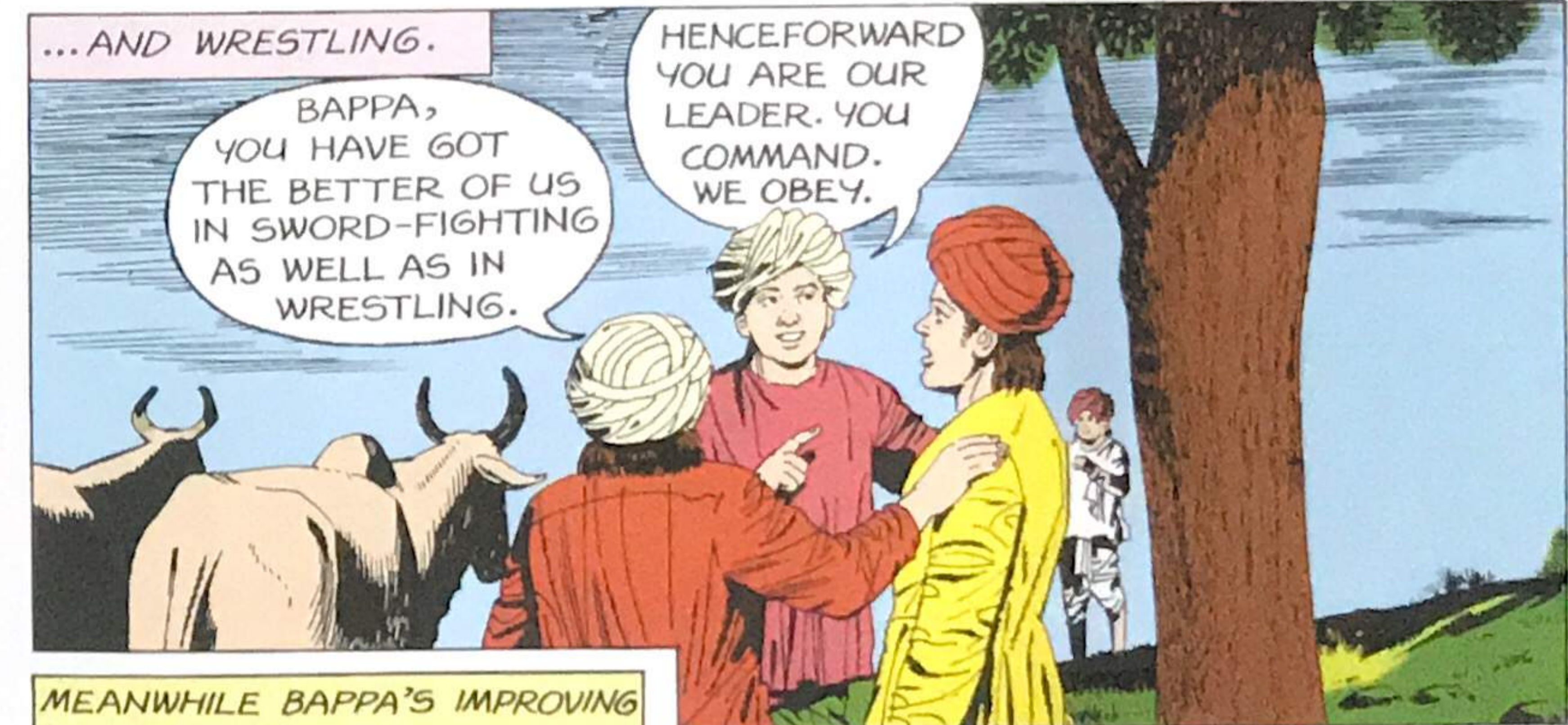
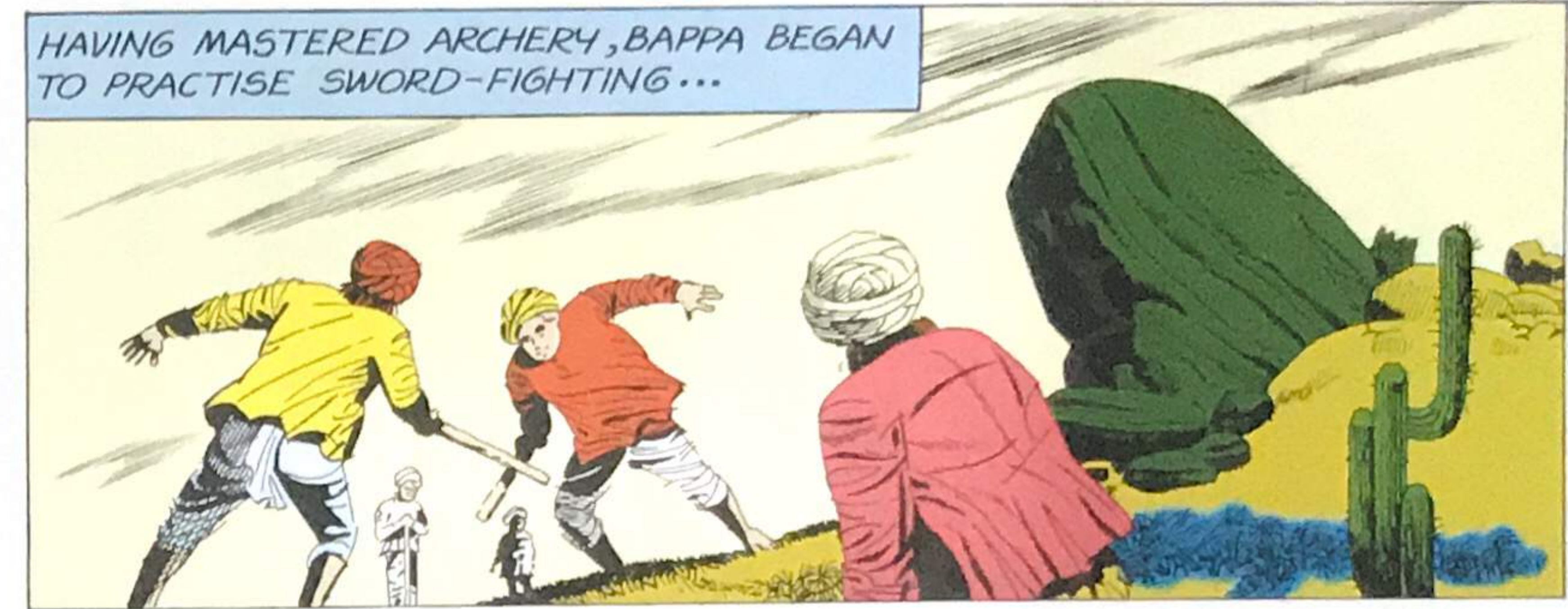
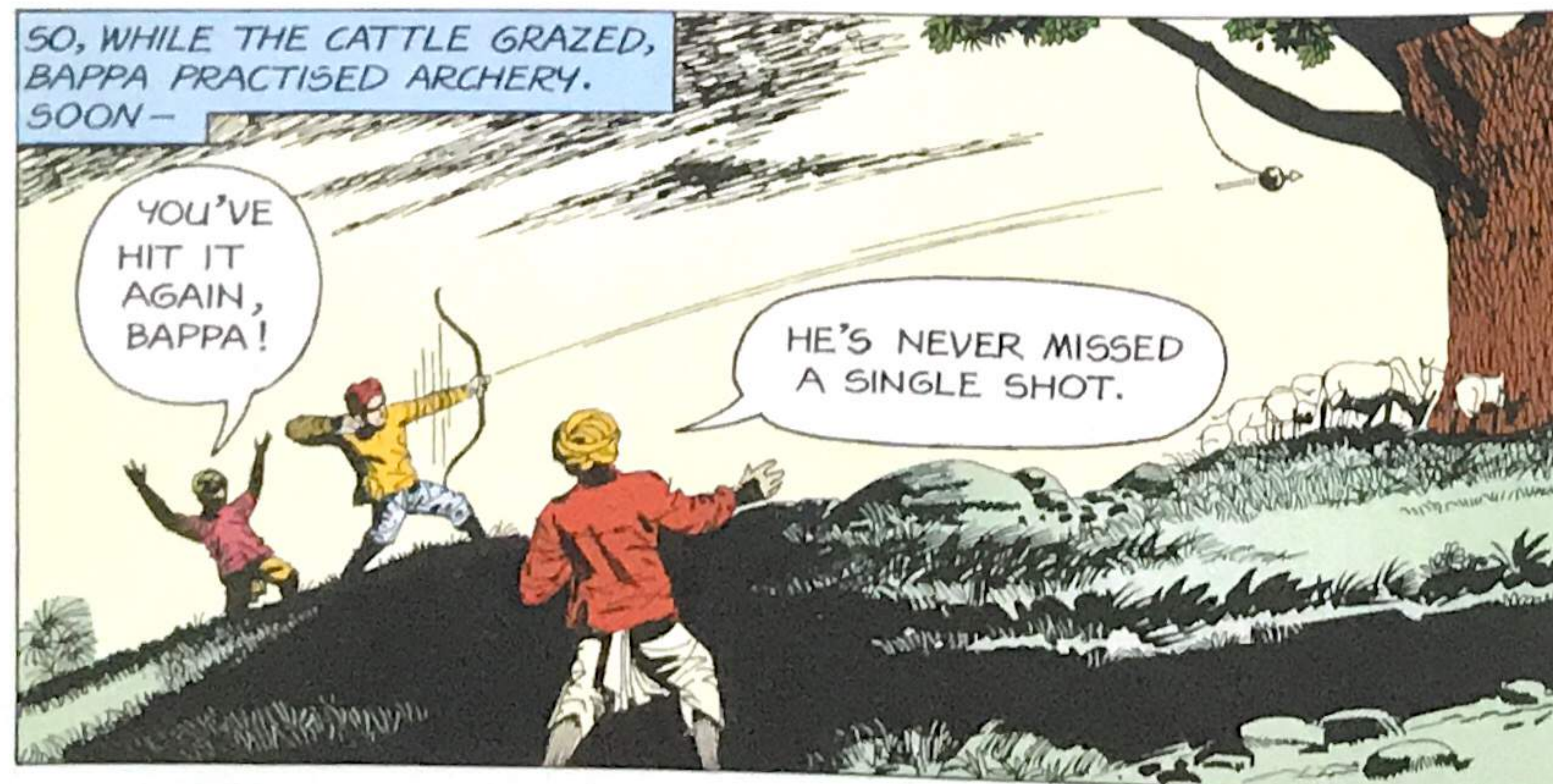
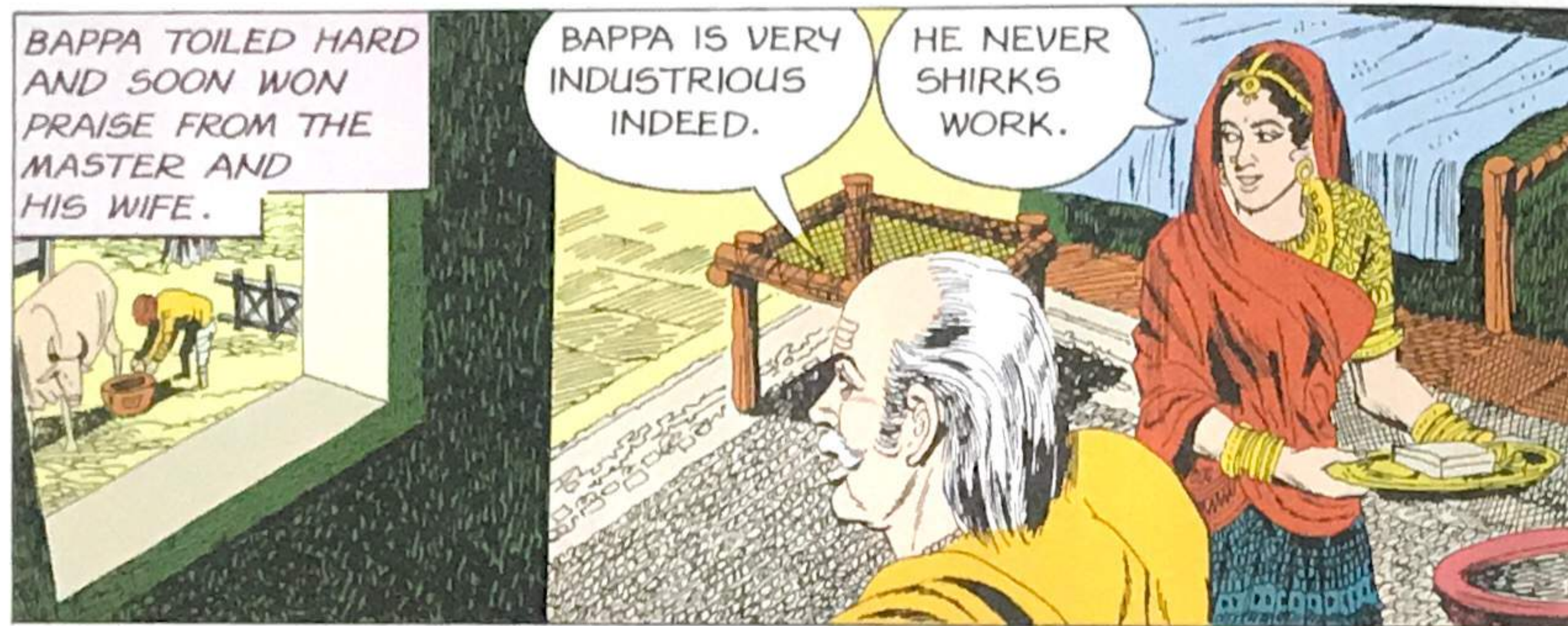




\*TODAY KNOWN AS THE ABU HILLS.



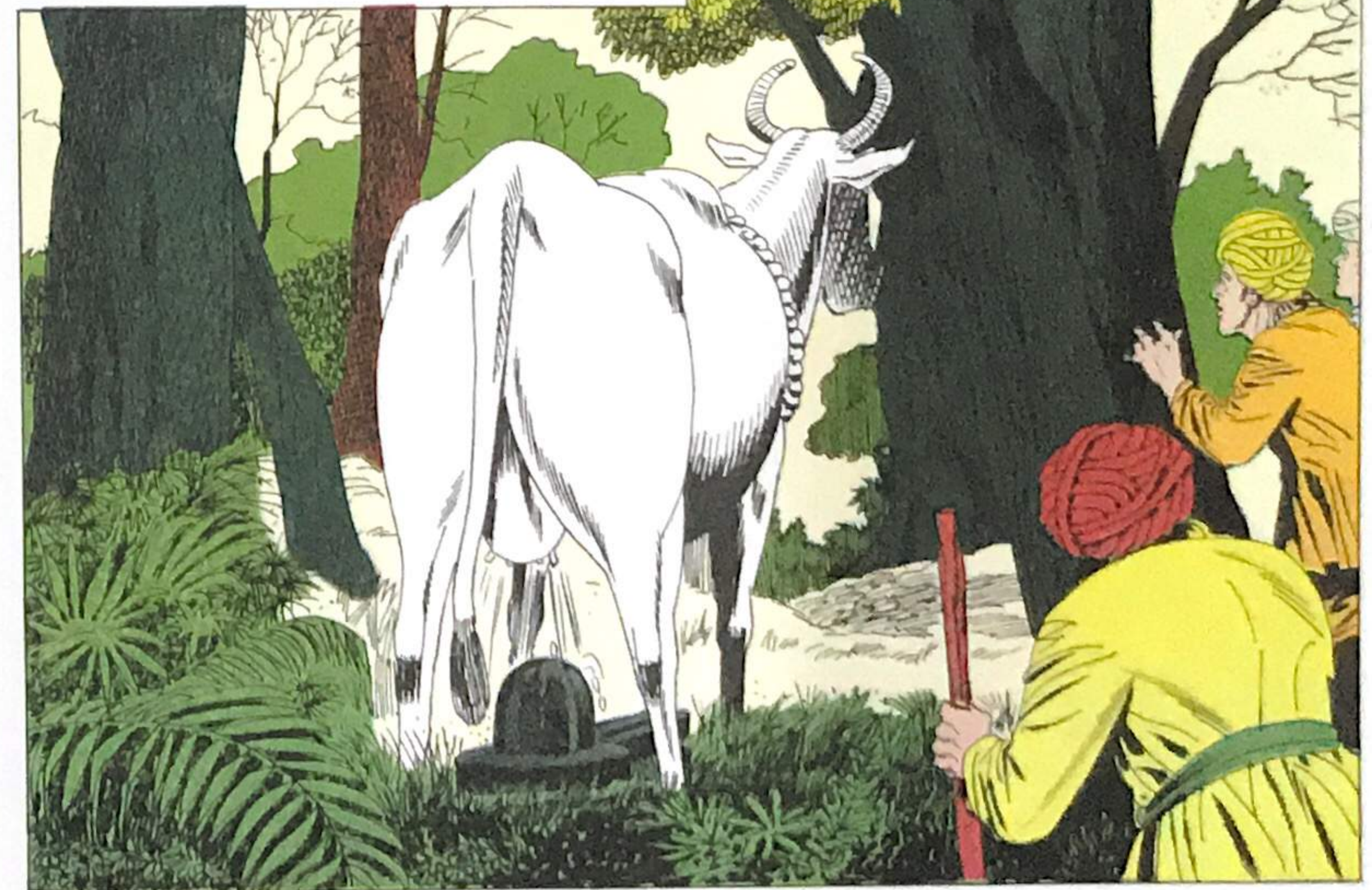
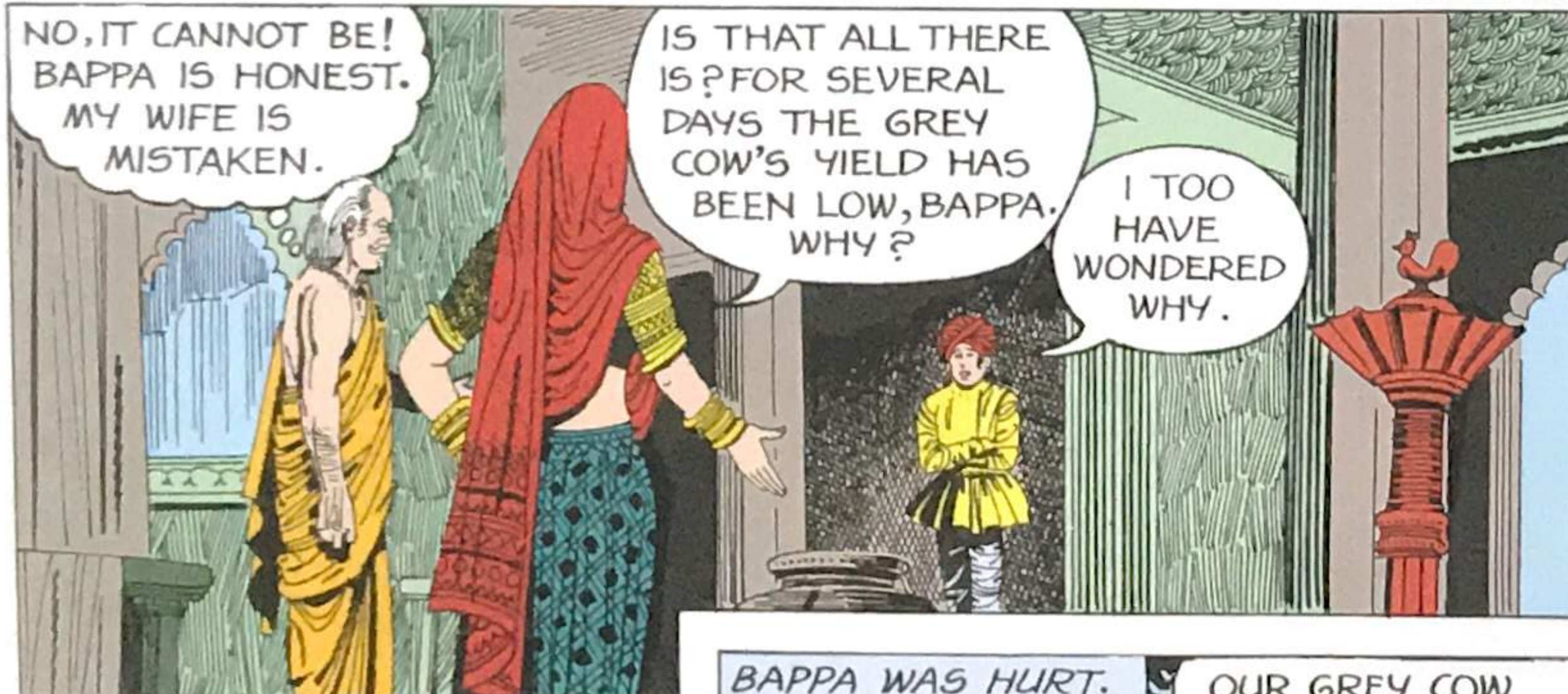
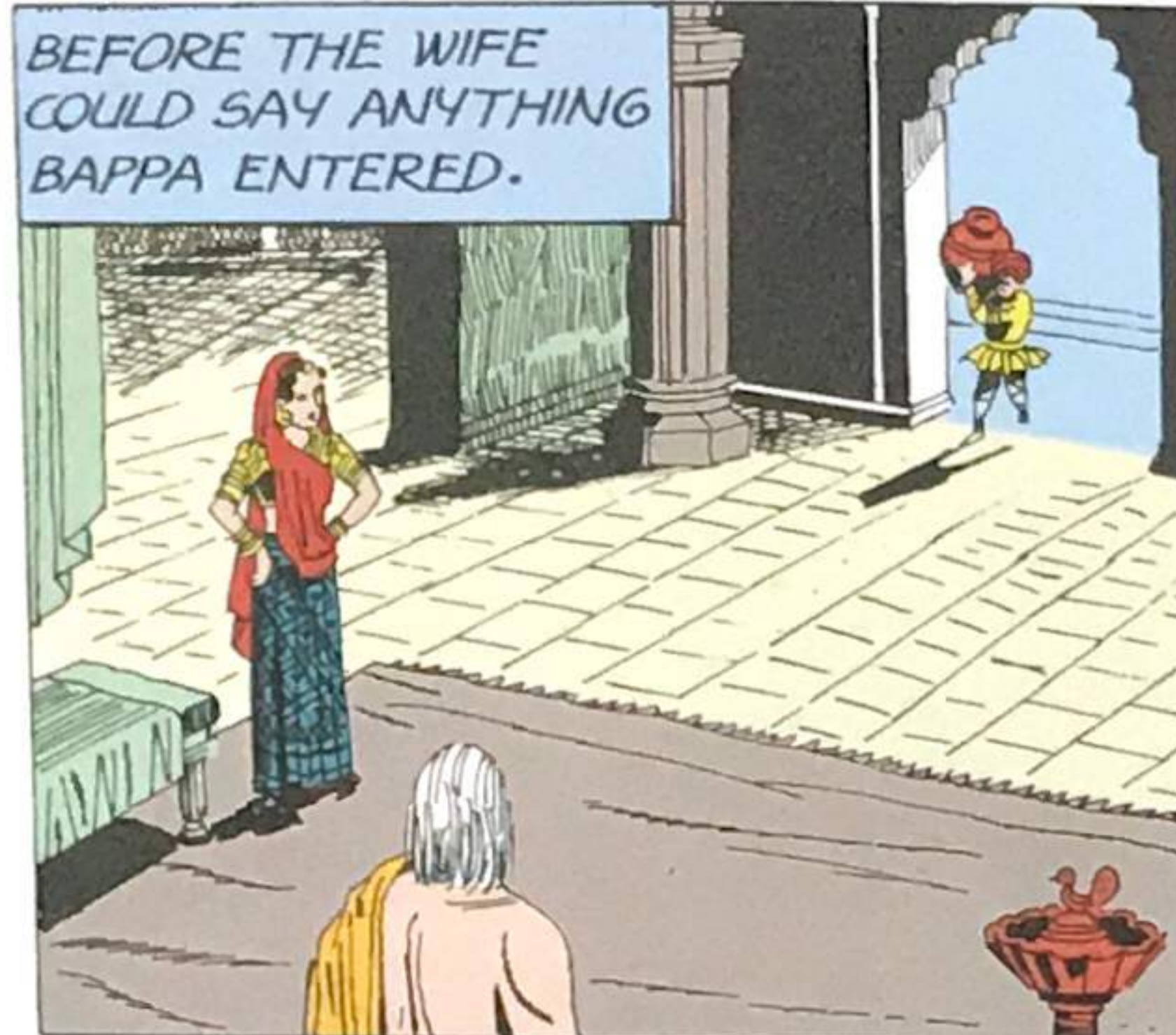
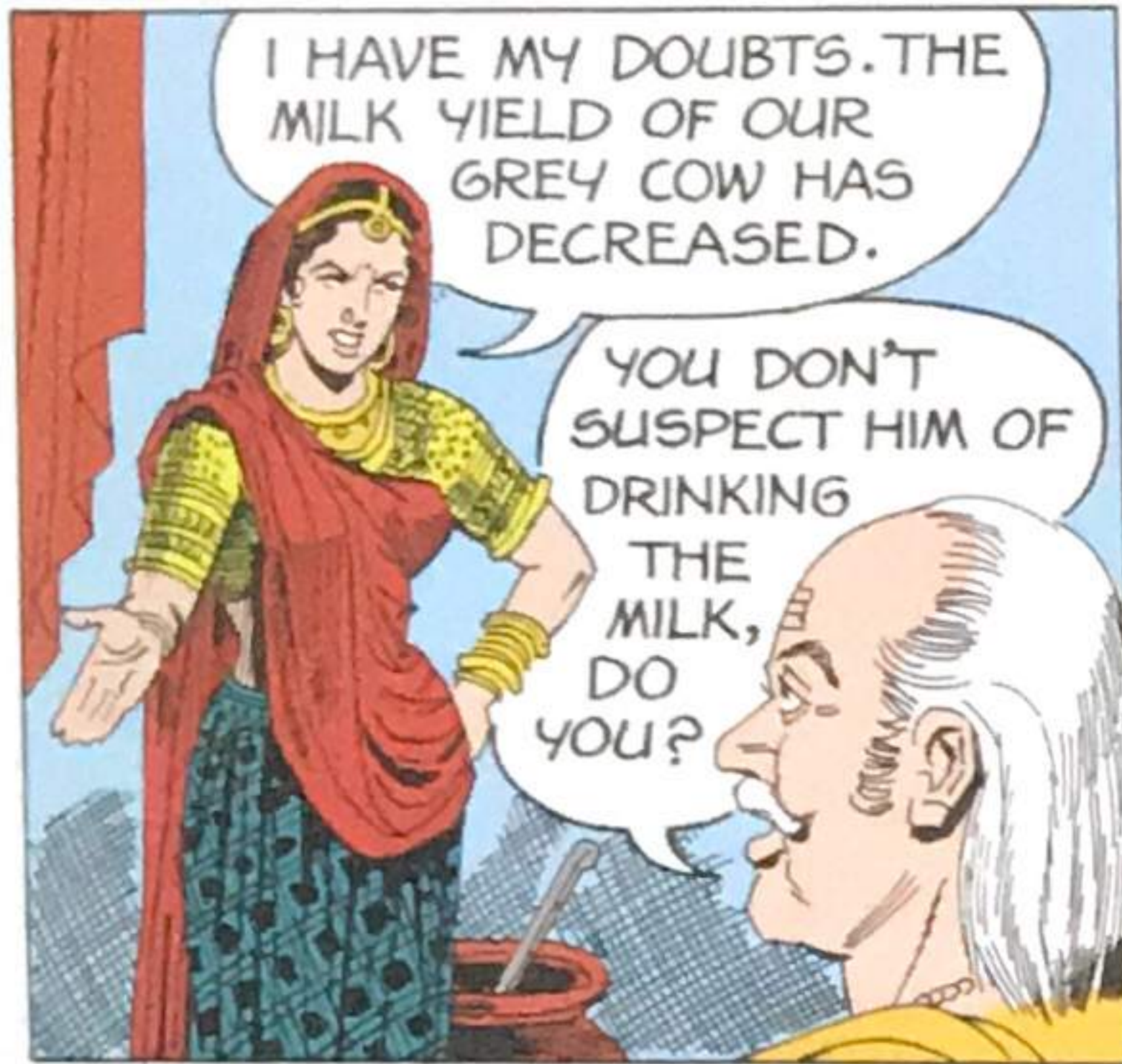




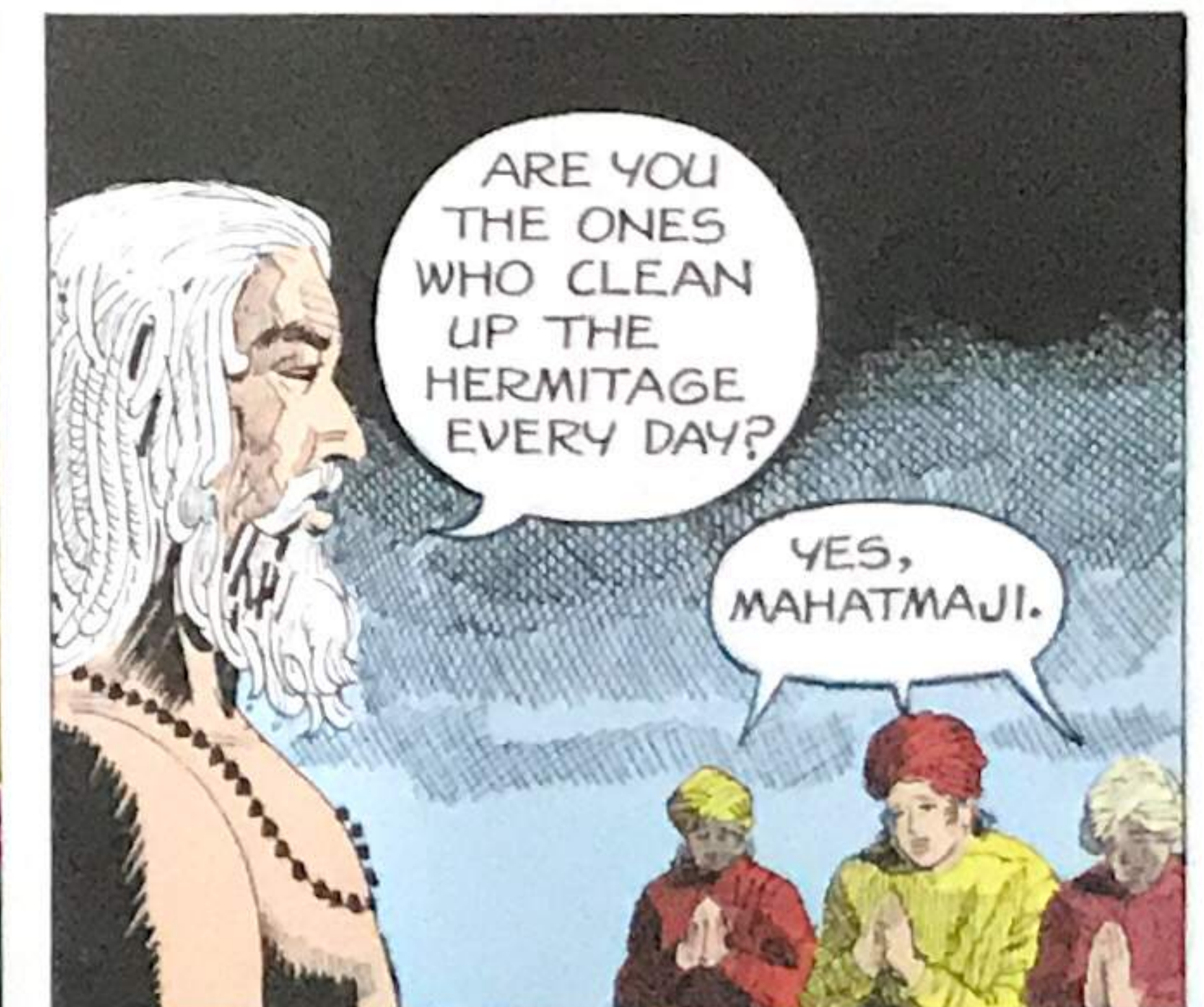
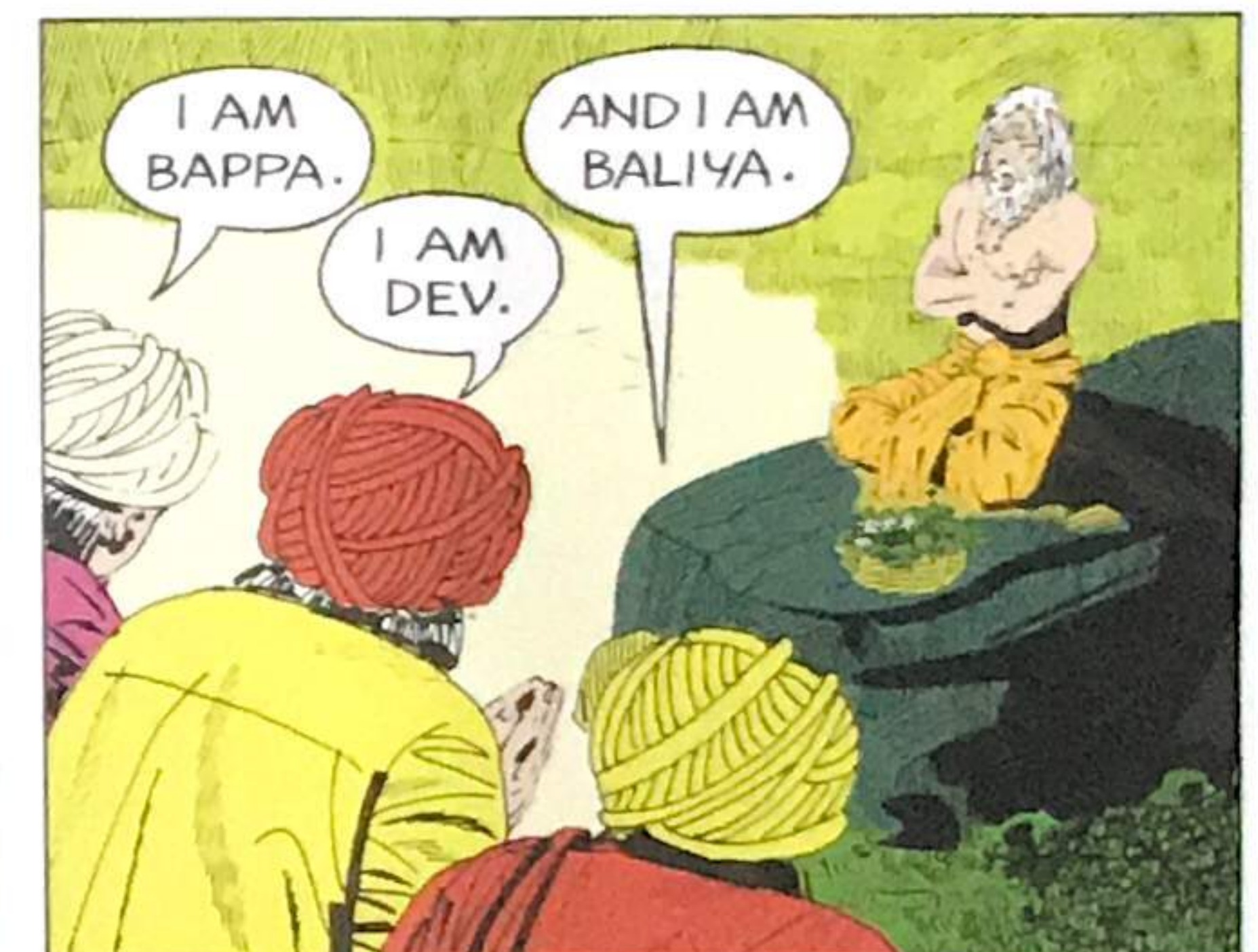
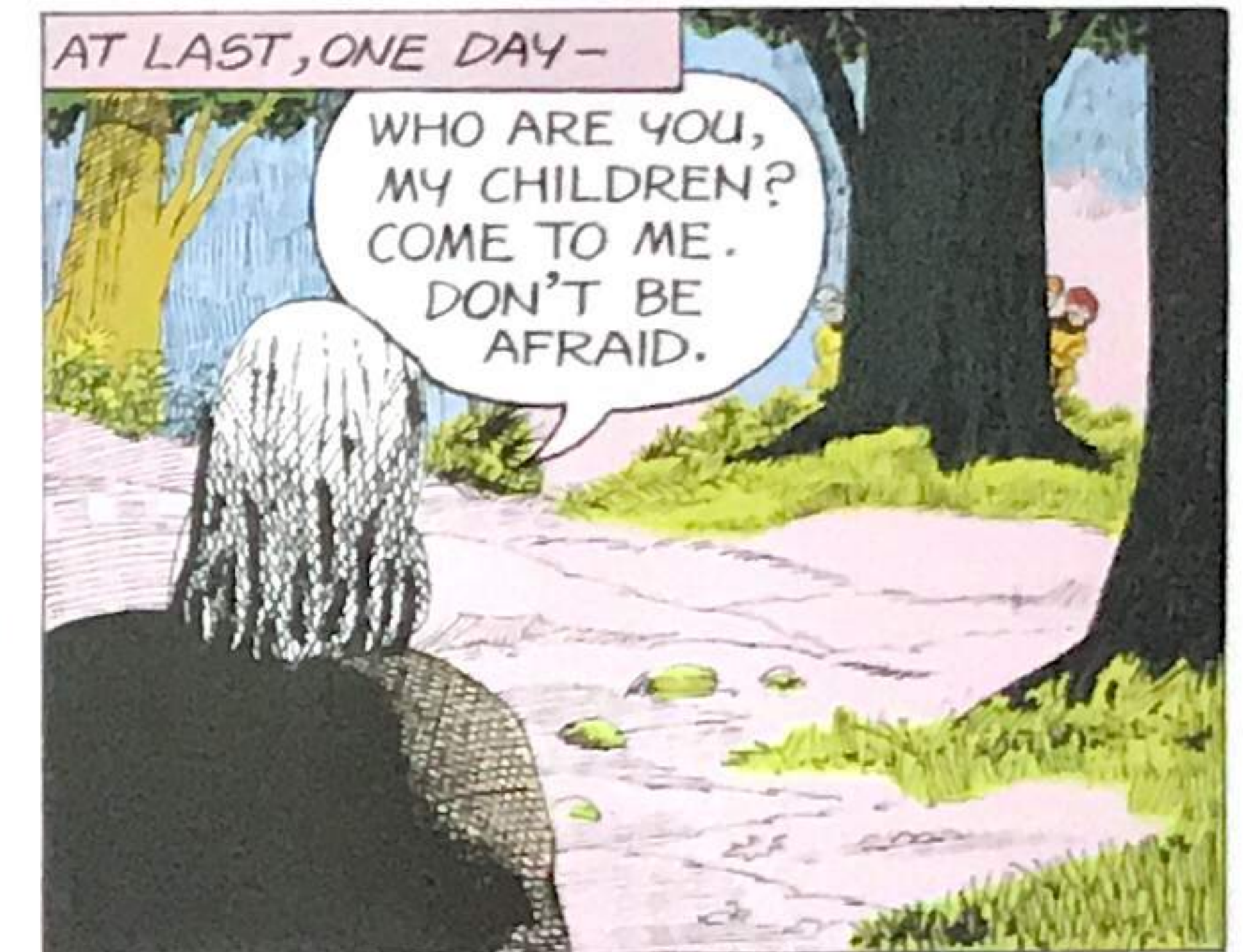
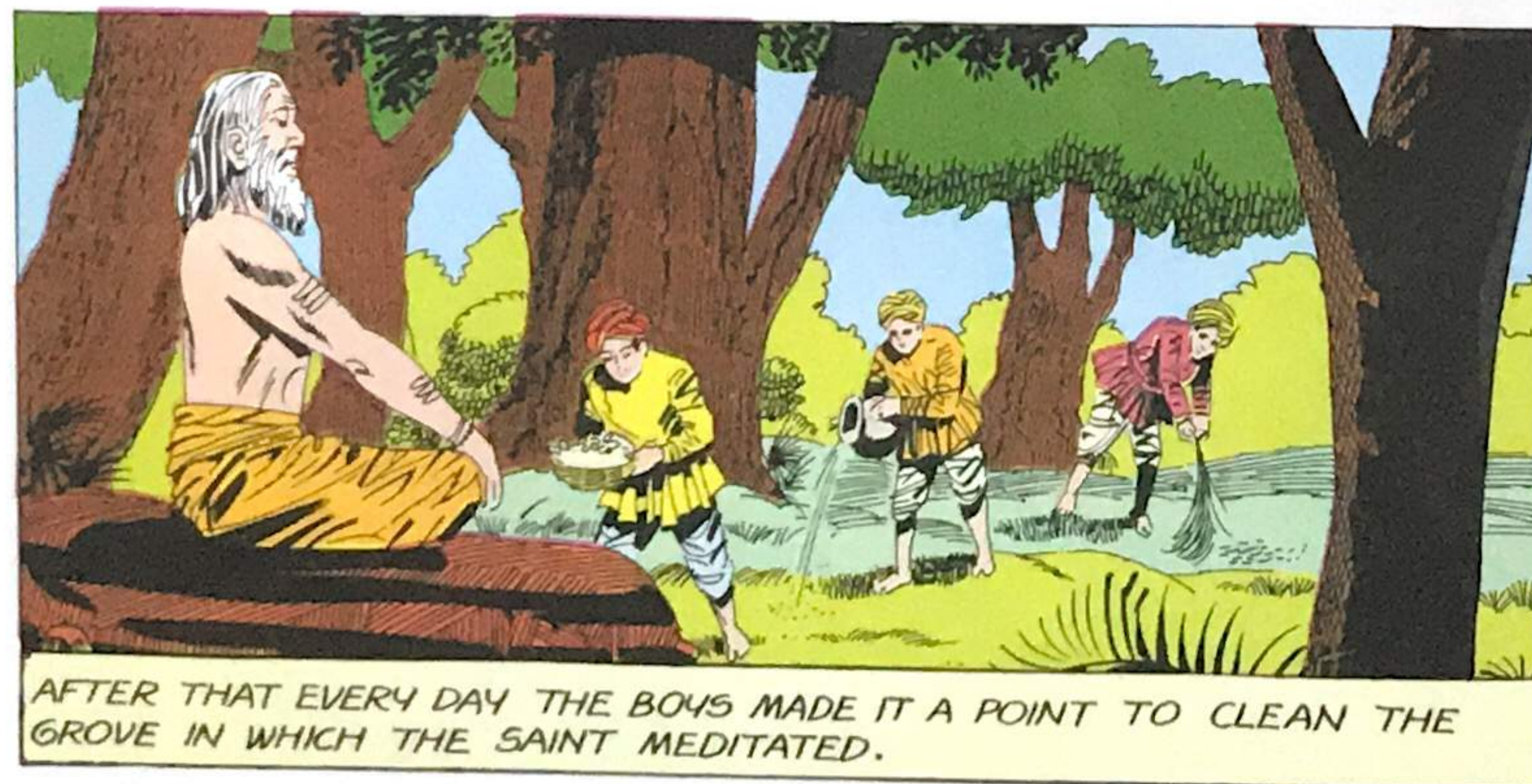
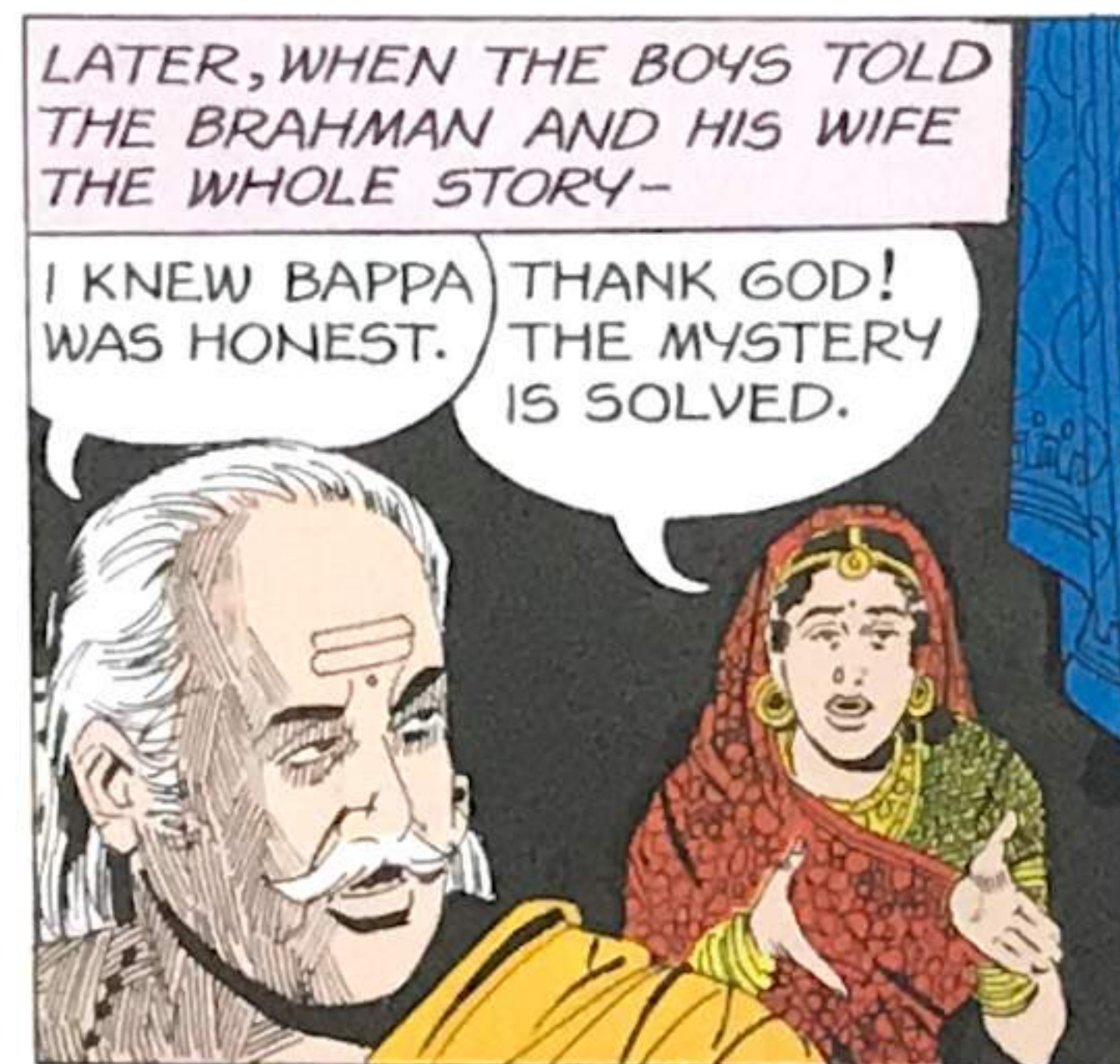
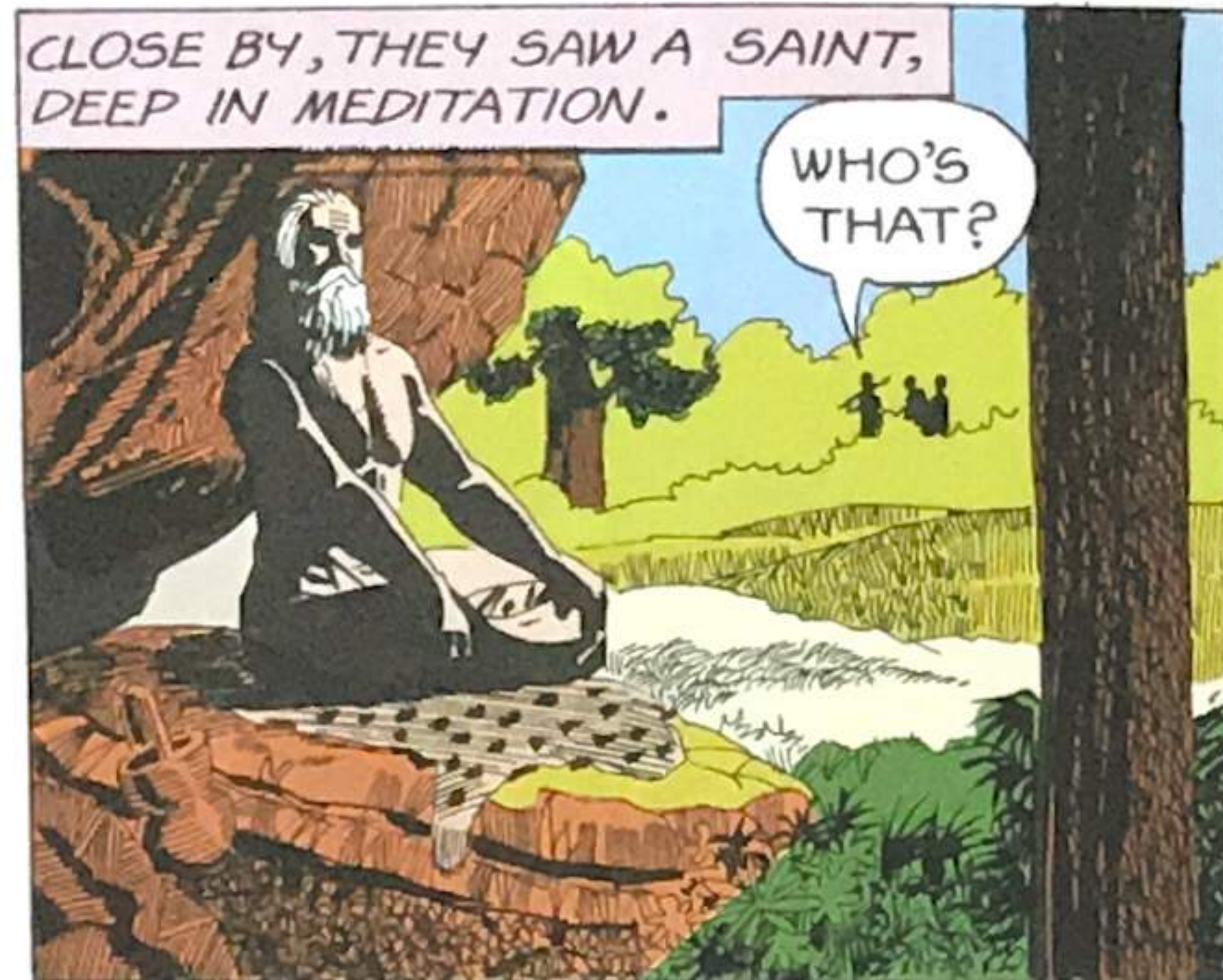
MEANWHILE BAPPA'S IMPROVING PHYSIQUE MADE THE BRAHMAN'S WIFE SUSPICIOUS.















I AM VERY PLEASED WITH YOU. YOU MUST COME TO ME EVERY DAY. I WILL INSTRUCT YOU IN THE SACRED LORE.

WE ARE INDEBTED TO YOU, GURUDEV.



HE HAS THE MANNERS OF A PRINCE.

AT THAT TIME THE RULER OF NAGDA WAS A SOLANKI.



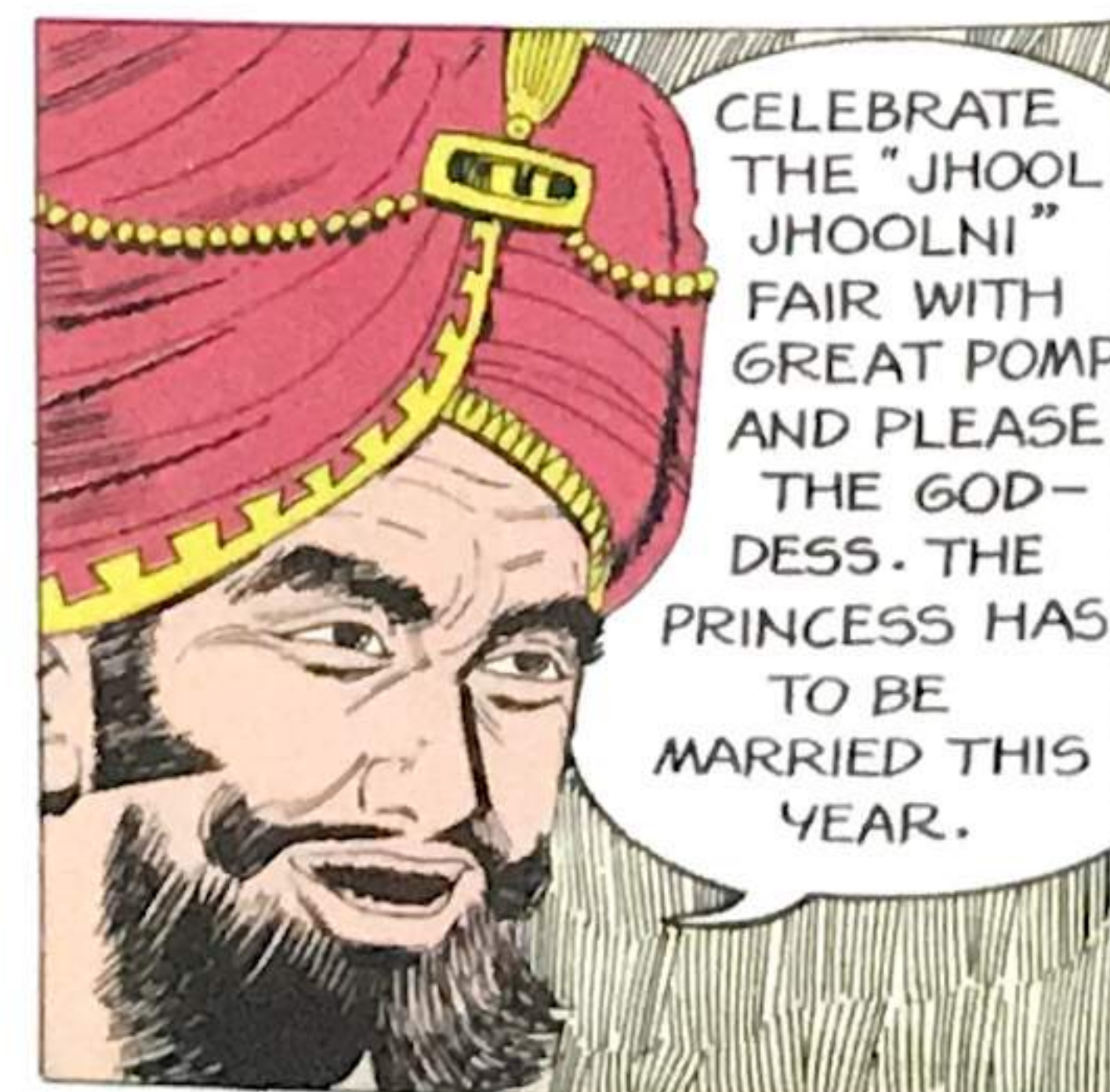
AUTUMN IS HERE, MANTRIJI.

YES, MY LORD.



HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF THE DEVI TEMPLE IN THE JUNGLE?

YES, MY LORD - AS I DO EVERY YEAR.



CELEBRATE THE "JHOOL JHOOLNI" FAIR WITH GREAT POMP AND PLEASE THE GODDESS. THE PRINCESS HAS TO BE MARRIED THIS YEAR.

ALONG WITH THE OTHER VILLAGERS, BAPPA AND HIS FRIENDS TOO WENT TO THE FAIR.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT ROPES FOR THE SWINGS?

THE PLEASURES OF THE FAIR WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT A TURN ON THE SWINGS.



THE SOLANKI PRINCESS ALSO CAME TO THE FAIR FOR A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE.

THIS IS THE FAIR-GROUND, PRINCESS.

FROM HERE, WE WILL GO ON FOOT TO THE TEMPLE.



MAY ALL YOUR WISHES BE FULFILLED!

AT THE TEMPLE -

MOTHER GODDESS, GRANT ME MY HEART'S DESIRE!



IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO TAKE A TURN ON THE SWINGS AT THE FAIR. NOT TO DO SO WAS CONSIDERED UNLUCKY.

RAJKUMARI, WE FORGOT TO BRING ROPES. HOW WILL WE SWING?

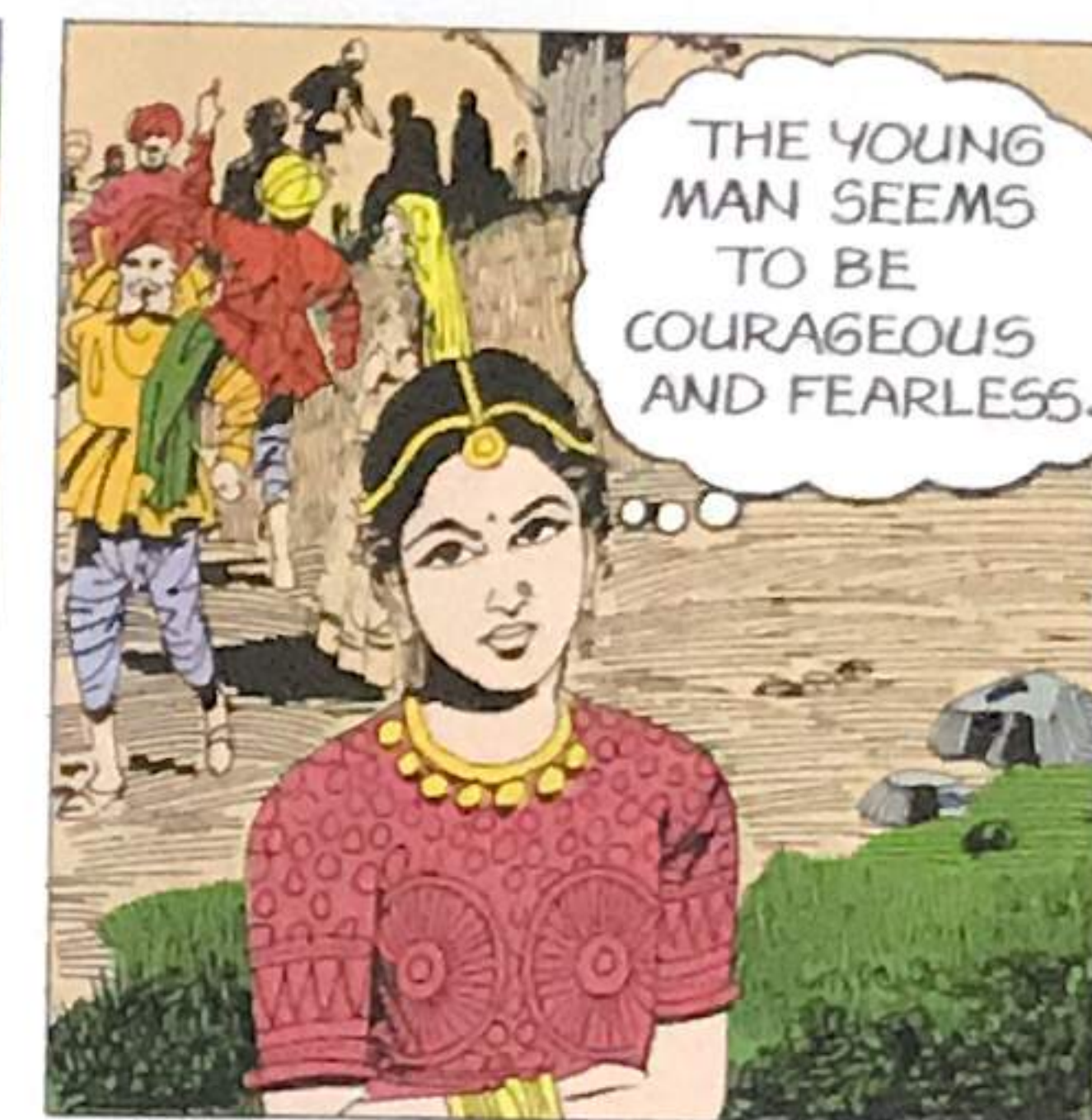
THOSE BOYS HAVE ROPES. THEY MIGHT HELP US OUT.



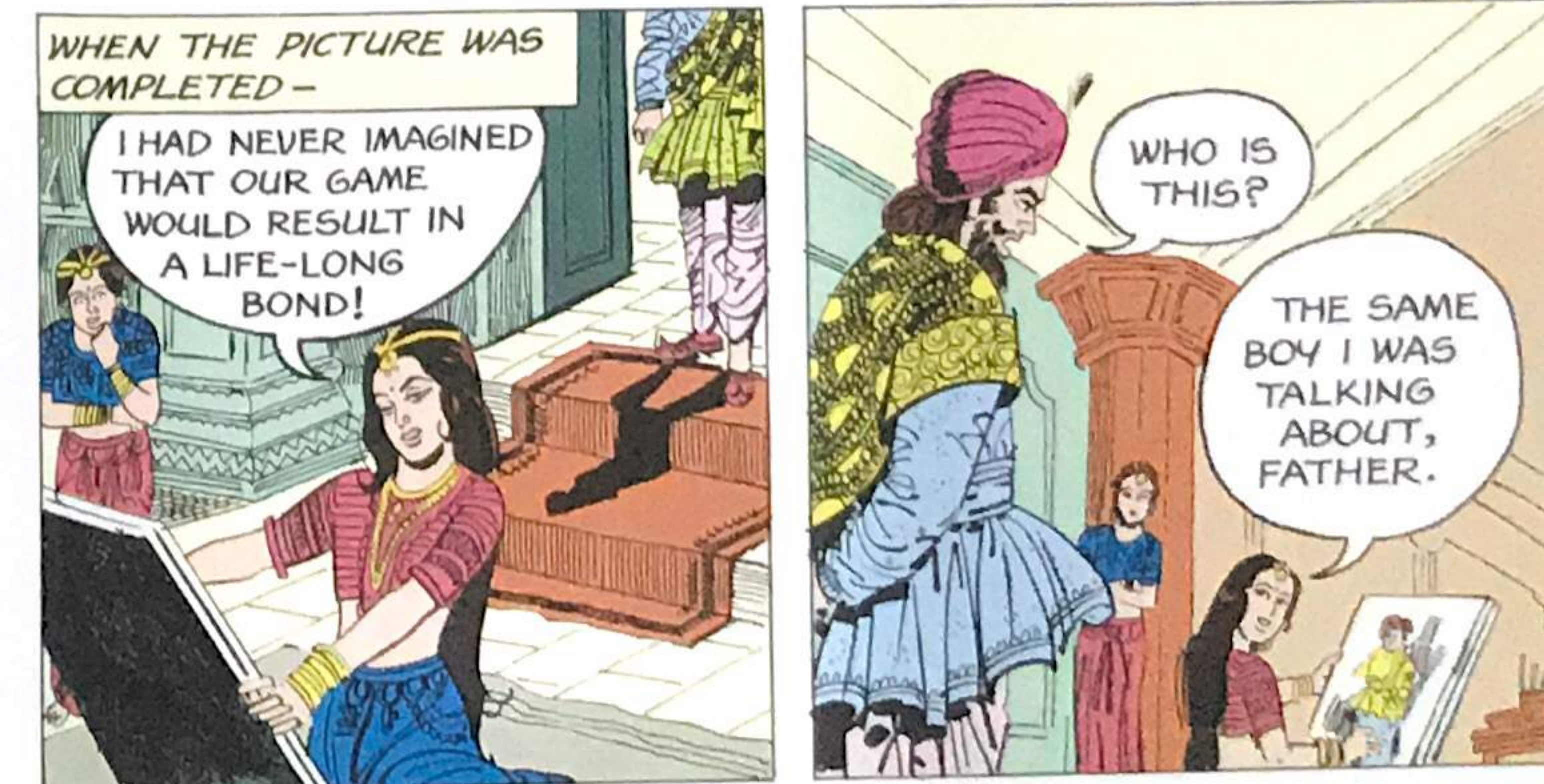
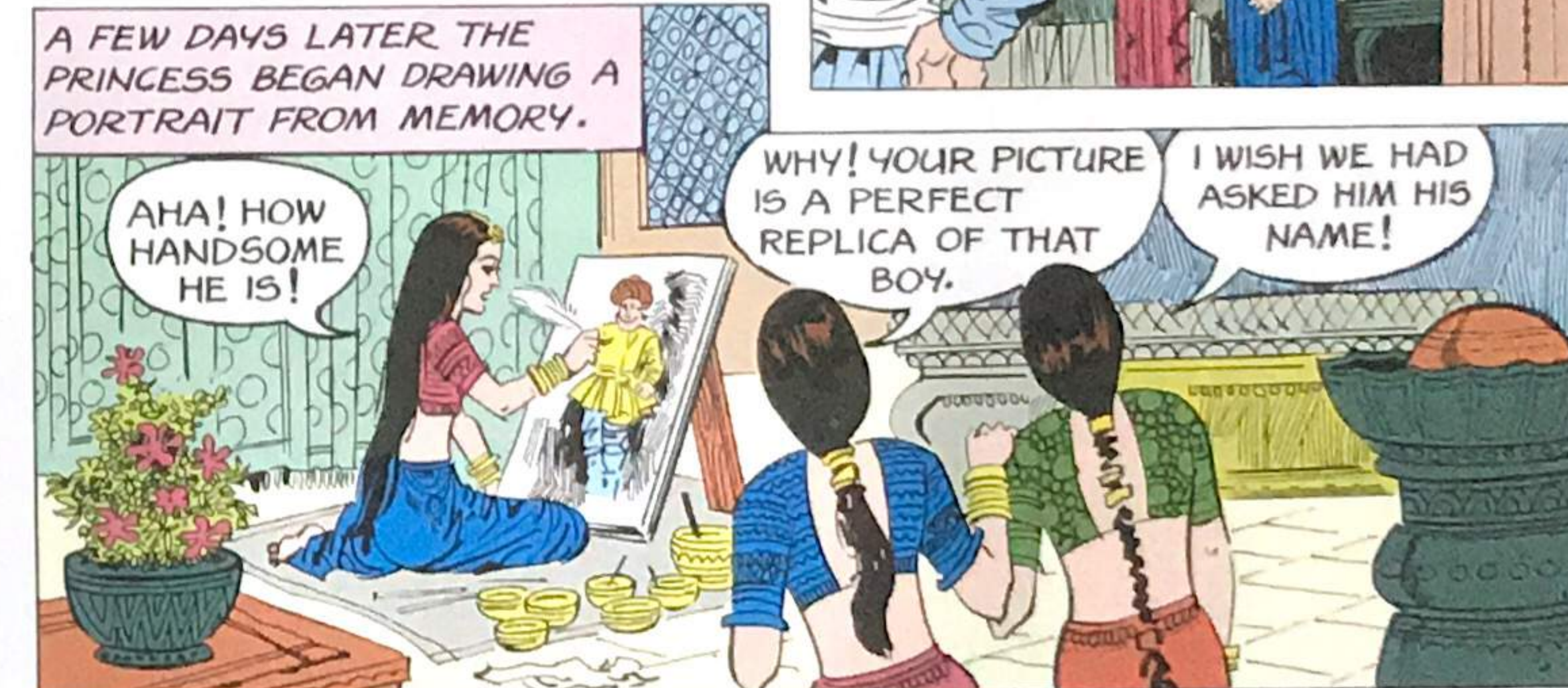
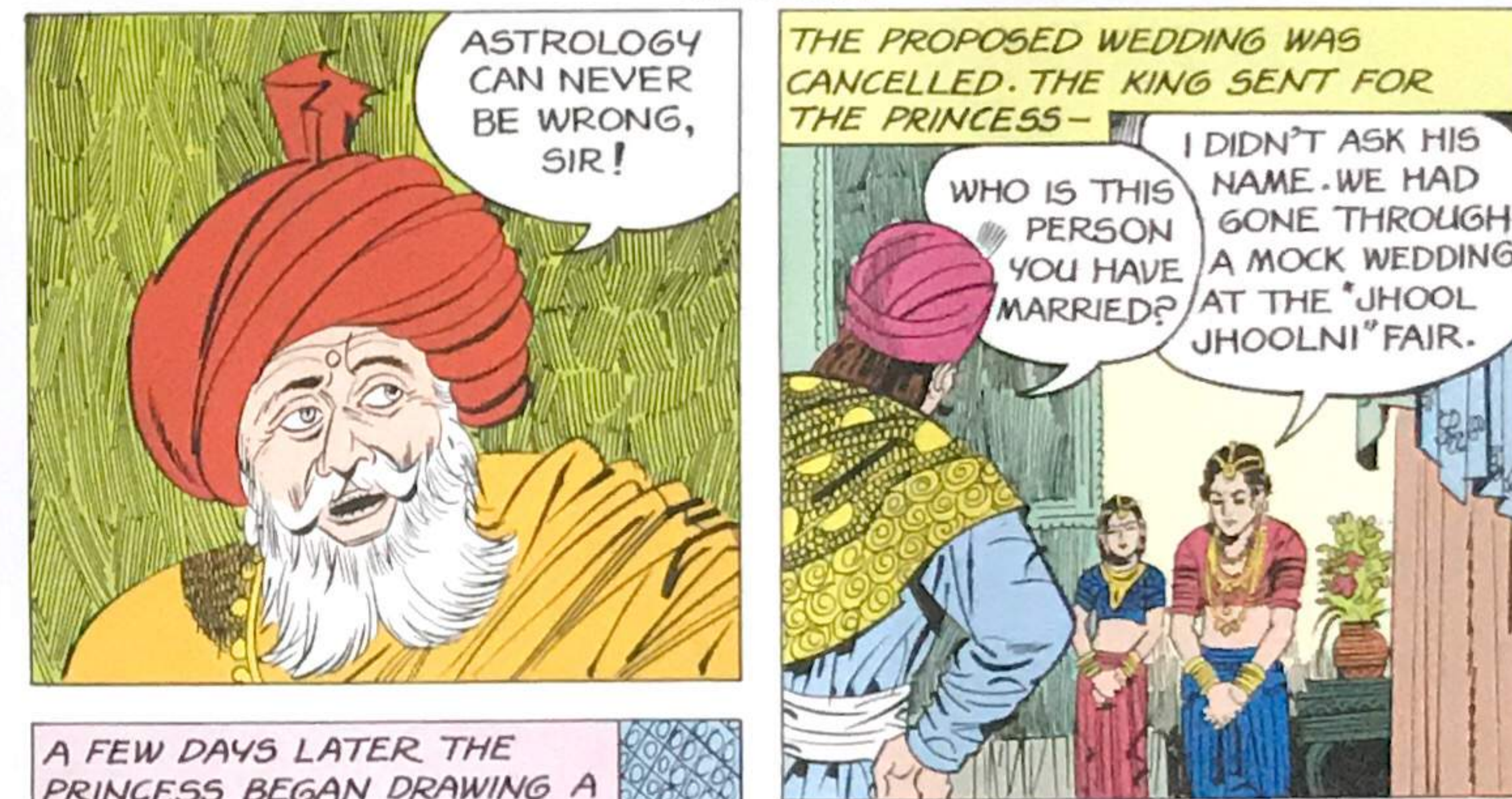
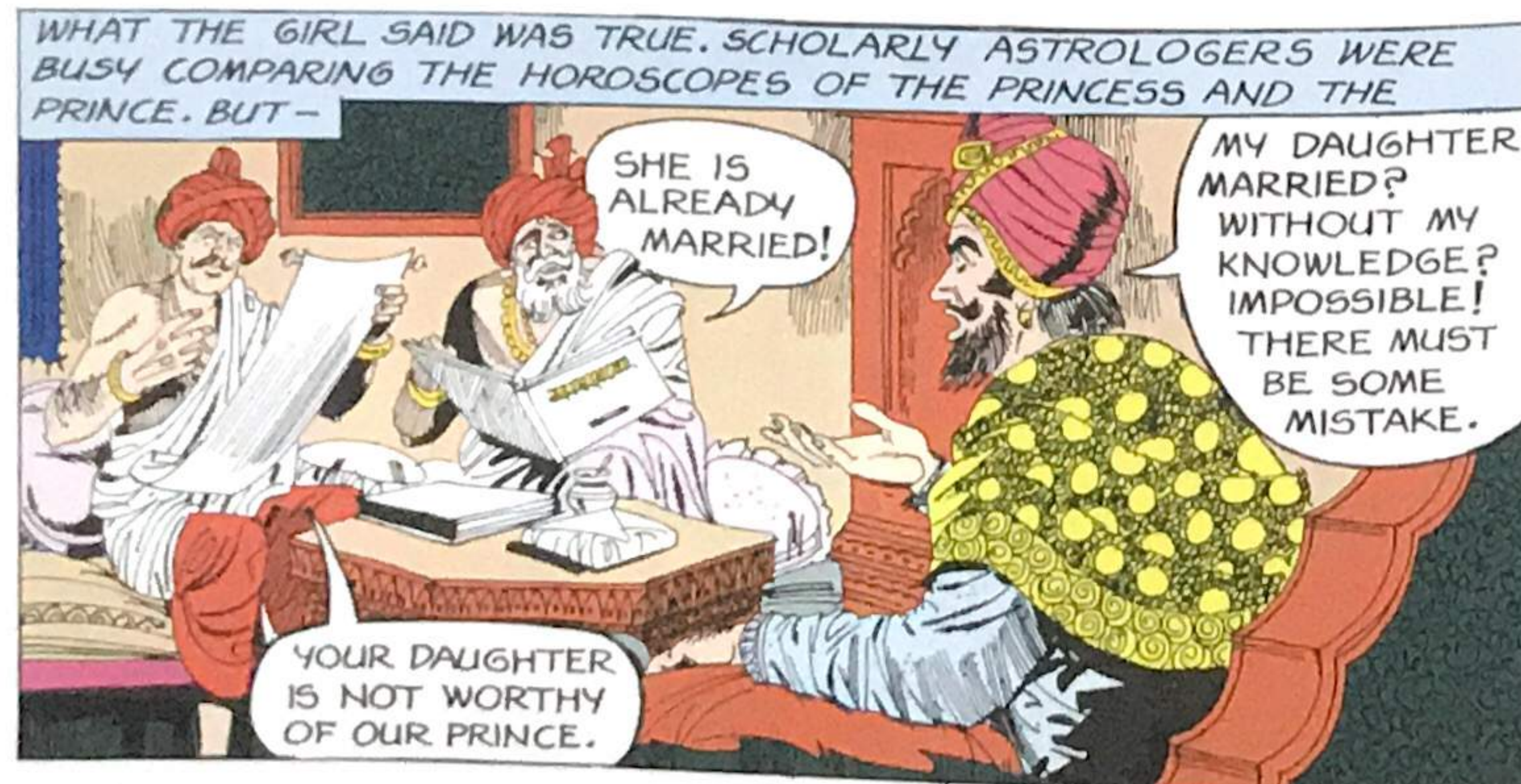
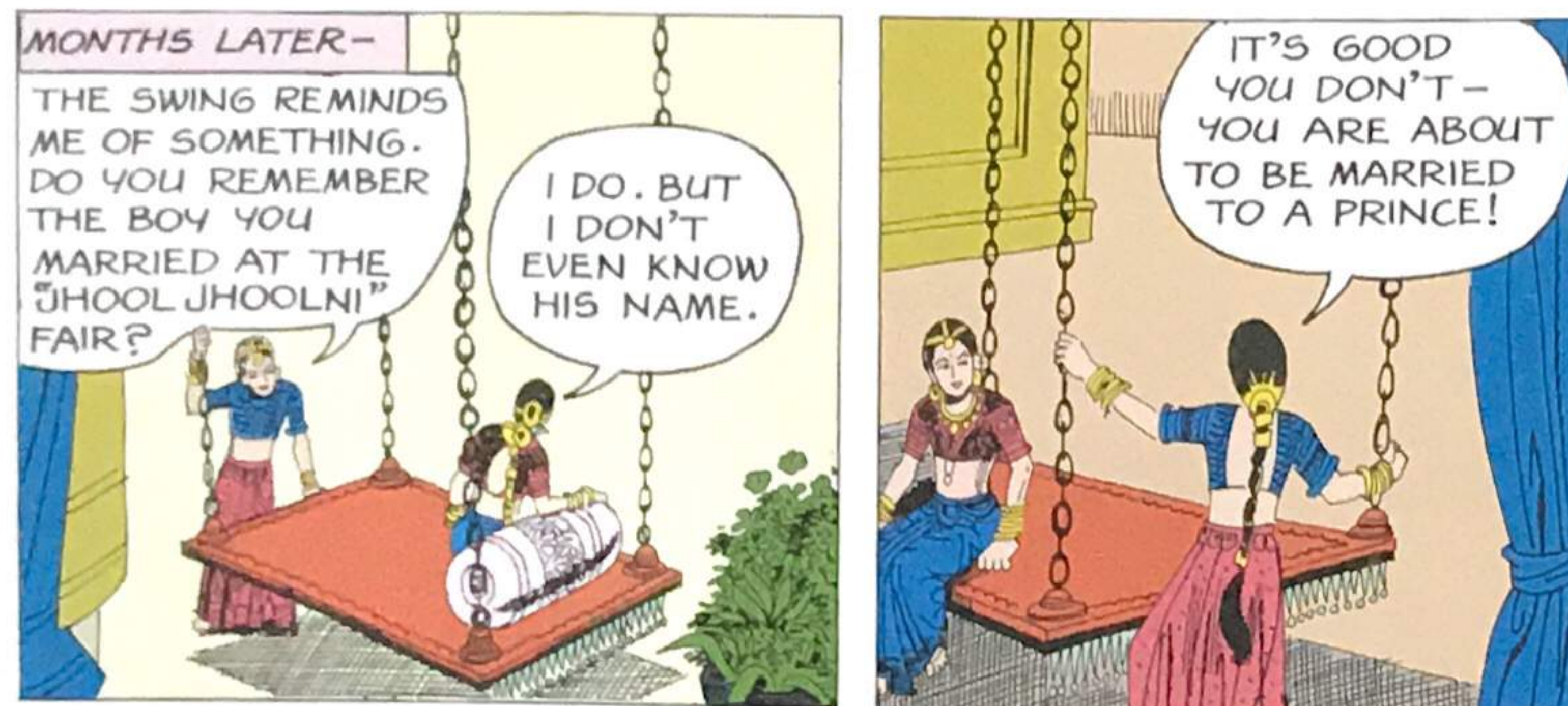
THE PRINCESS CALLED OUT TO BAPPA AND HIS FRIENDS.



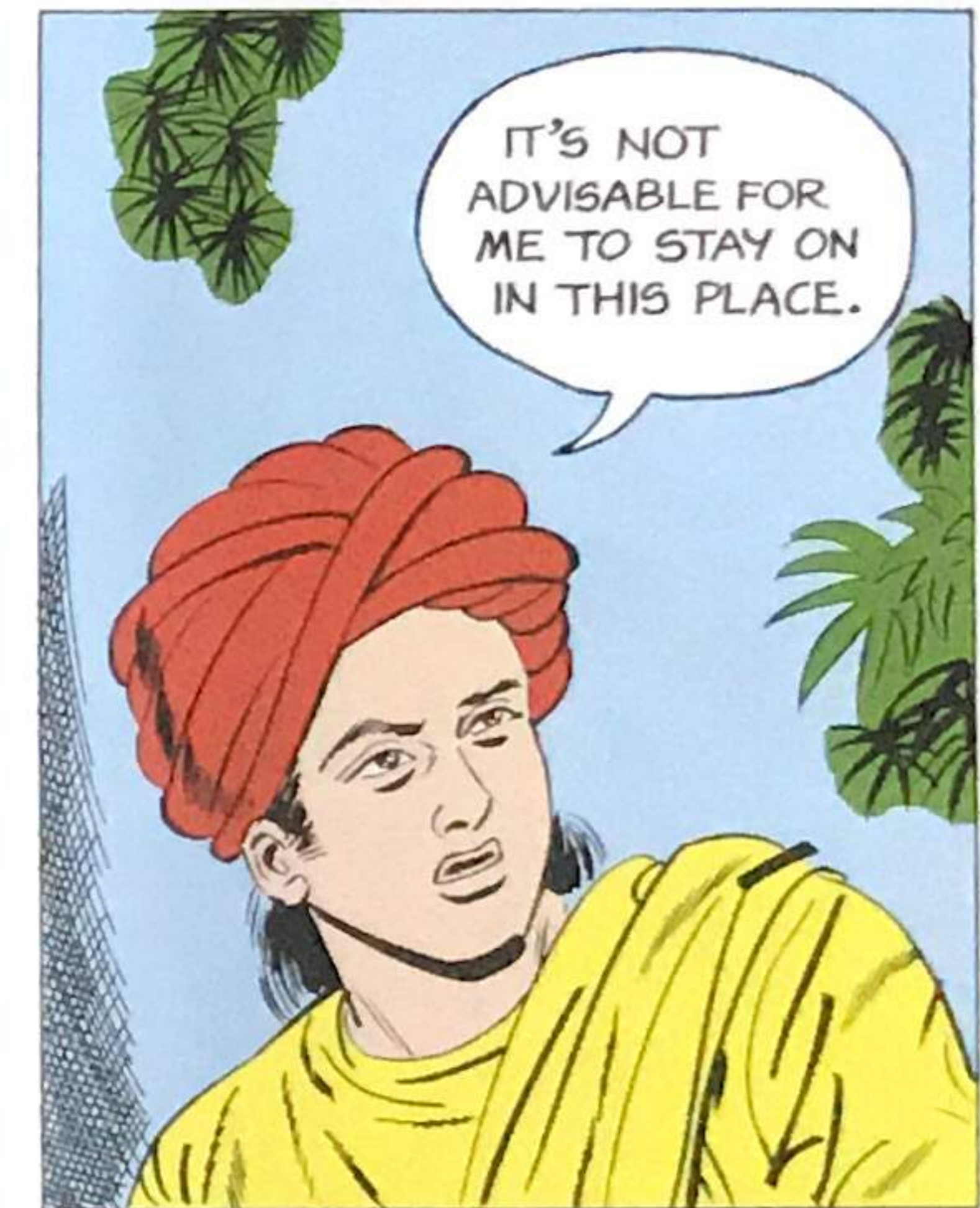
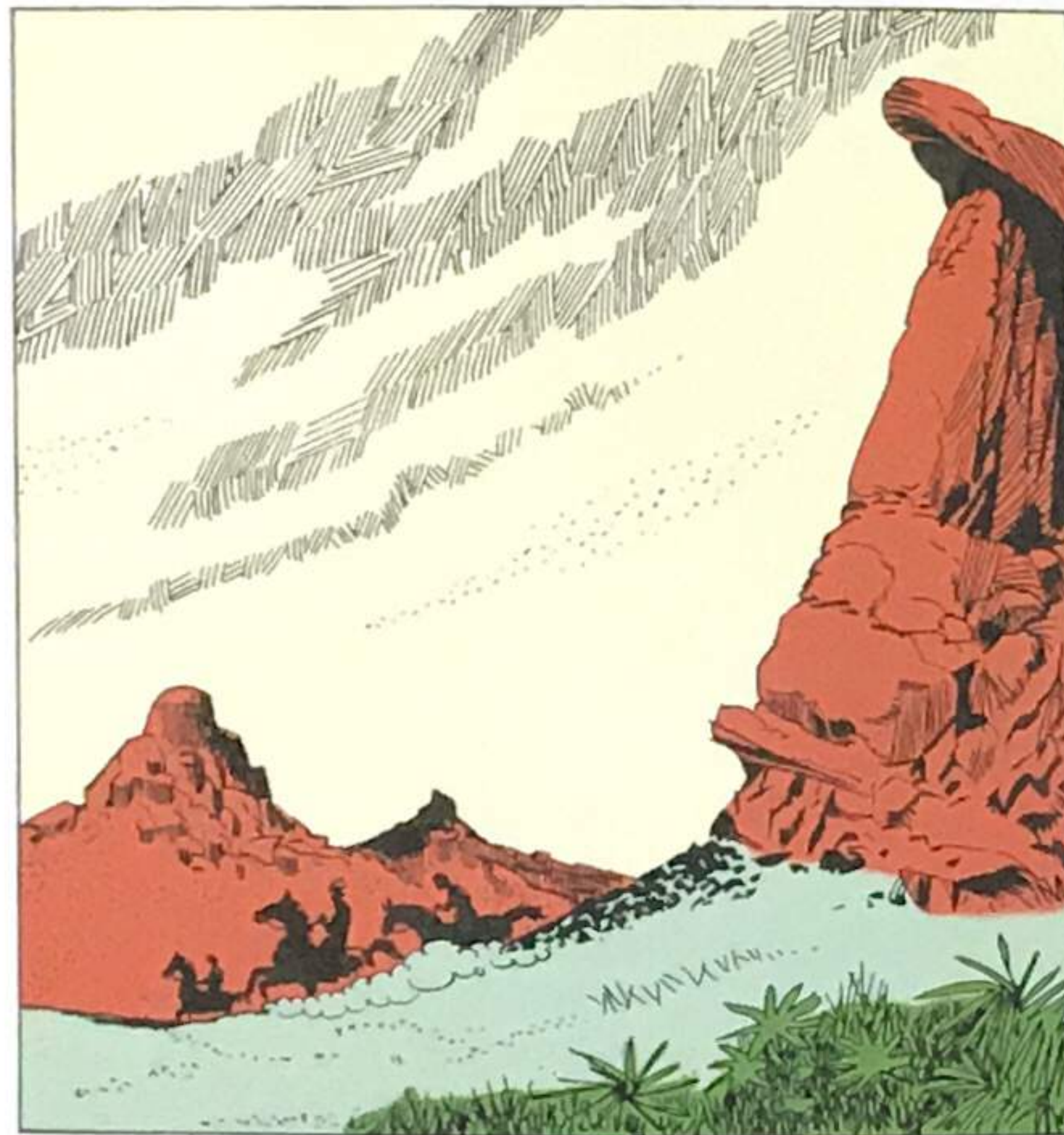
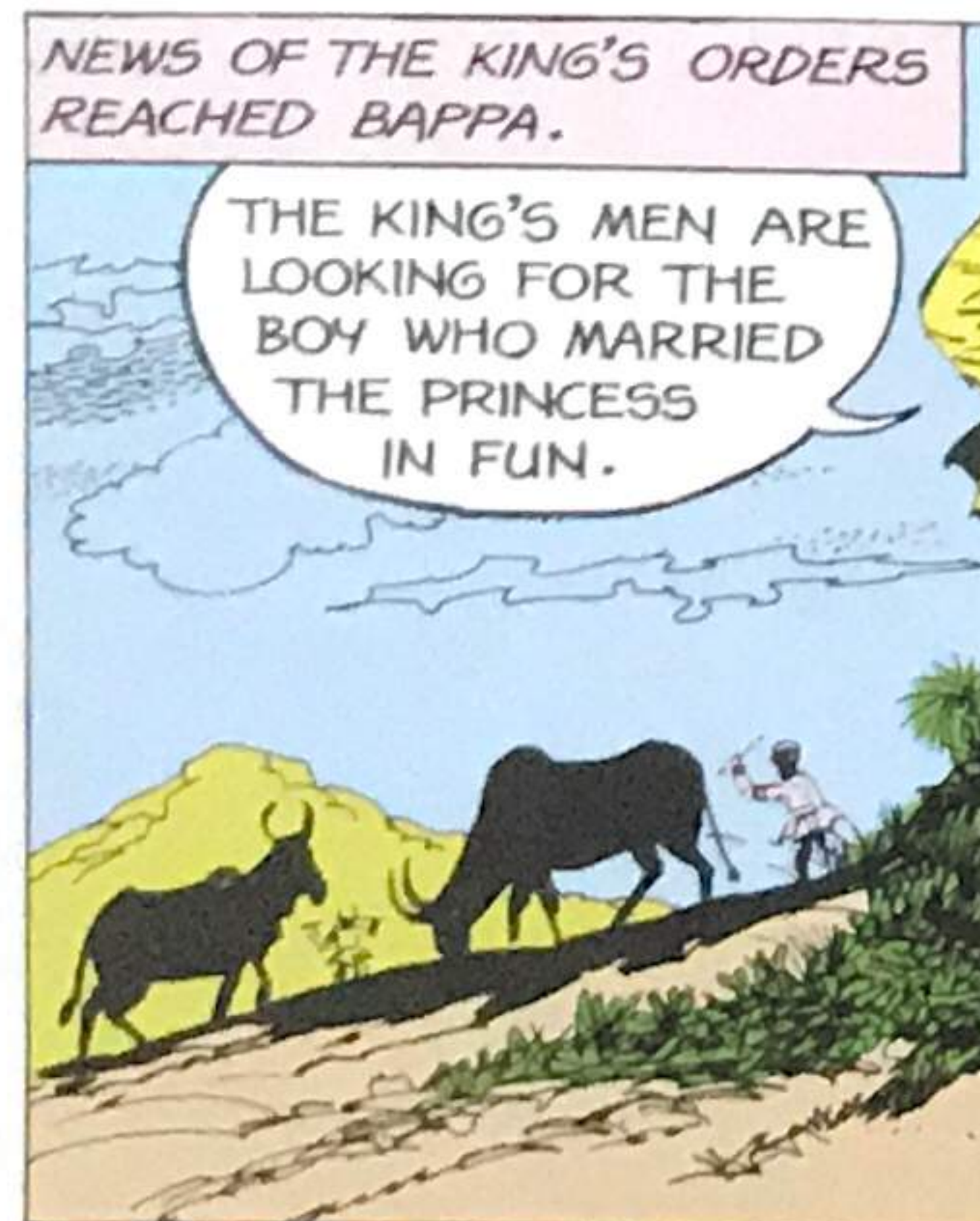








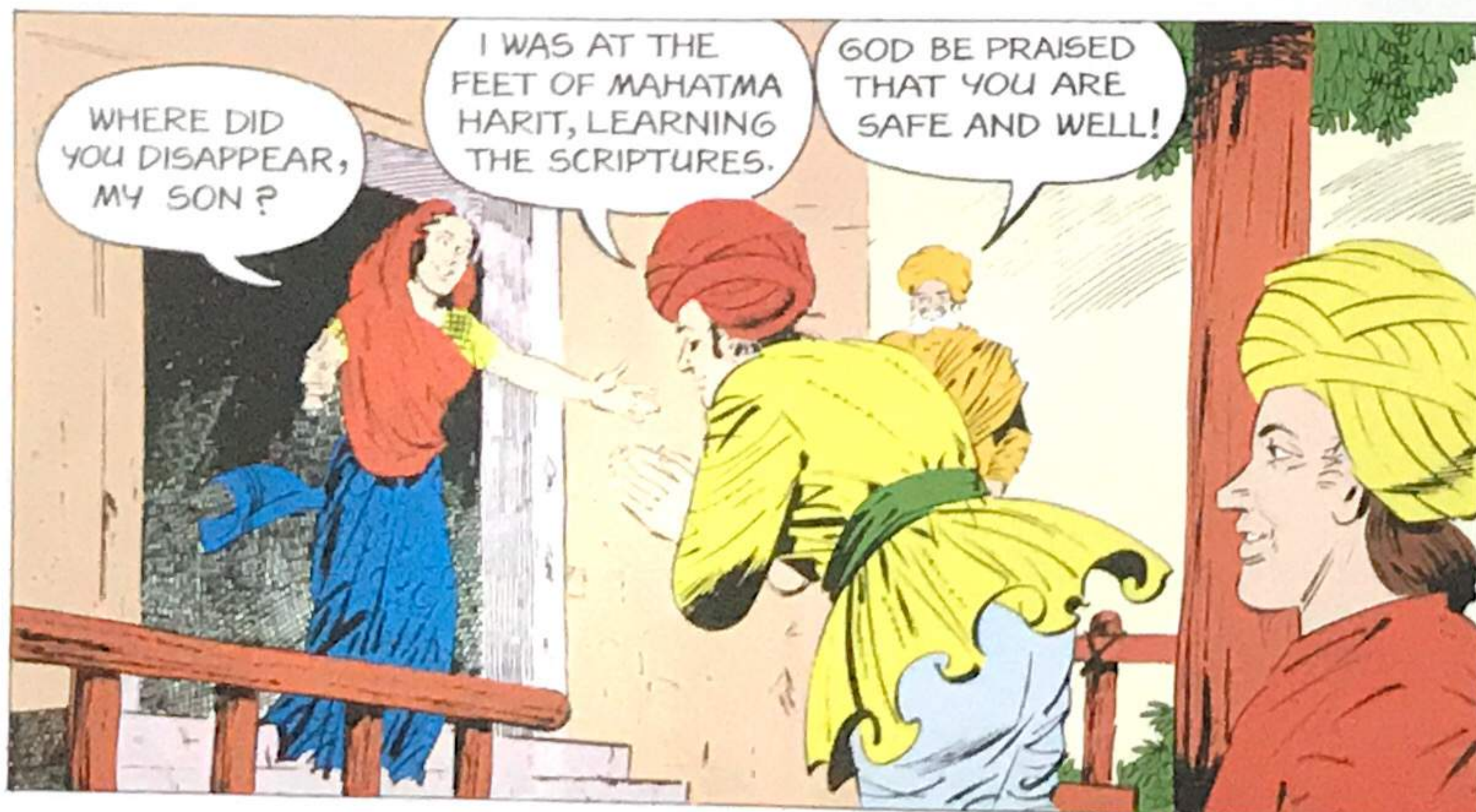








ONE DAY, MONTHS LATER, AT MAHATMA HARIT'S GROVE -



THE SOLANKI'S SOLDIERS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR YOU.

AND EVERYONE HAS SEEN YOUR PORTRAIT.





THE RAJMATA TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT THEIR FAMILY AND WHY THEY HAD GONE INTO HIDING.

SON, I AM THE SISTER OF RAJA MORI OF CHITTOR.

A PRINCESS! YOU HAVE UNDERGONE ALL THIS FOR MY SAKE, MOTHER!

NOW THAT YOU ARE GROWN UP, DO YOUR DUTY, BAPPA.

I PROMISE THAT I WILL WIN BACK THE TERRITORIES OF MY FOREFATHERS AND RESTORE HONOUR TO THEM.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

BAPPA KI JAI!

LET US REST FOR A WHILE.

LET US GO TO THAT HUT.



CLOSE TO THE HUT, BABA GORAKHNATH SAT IN MEDITATION.

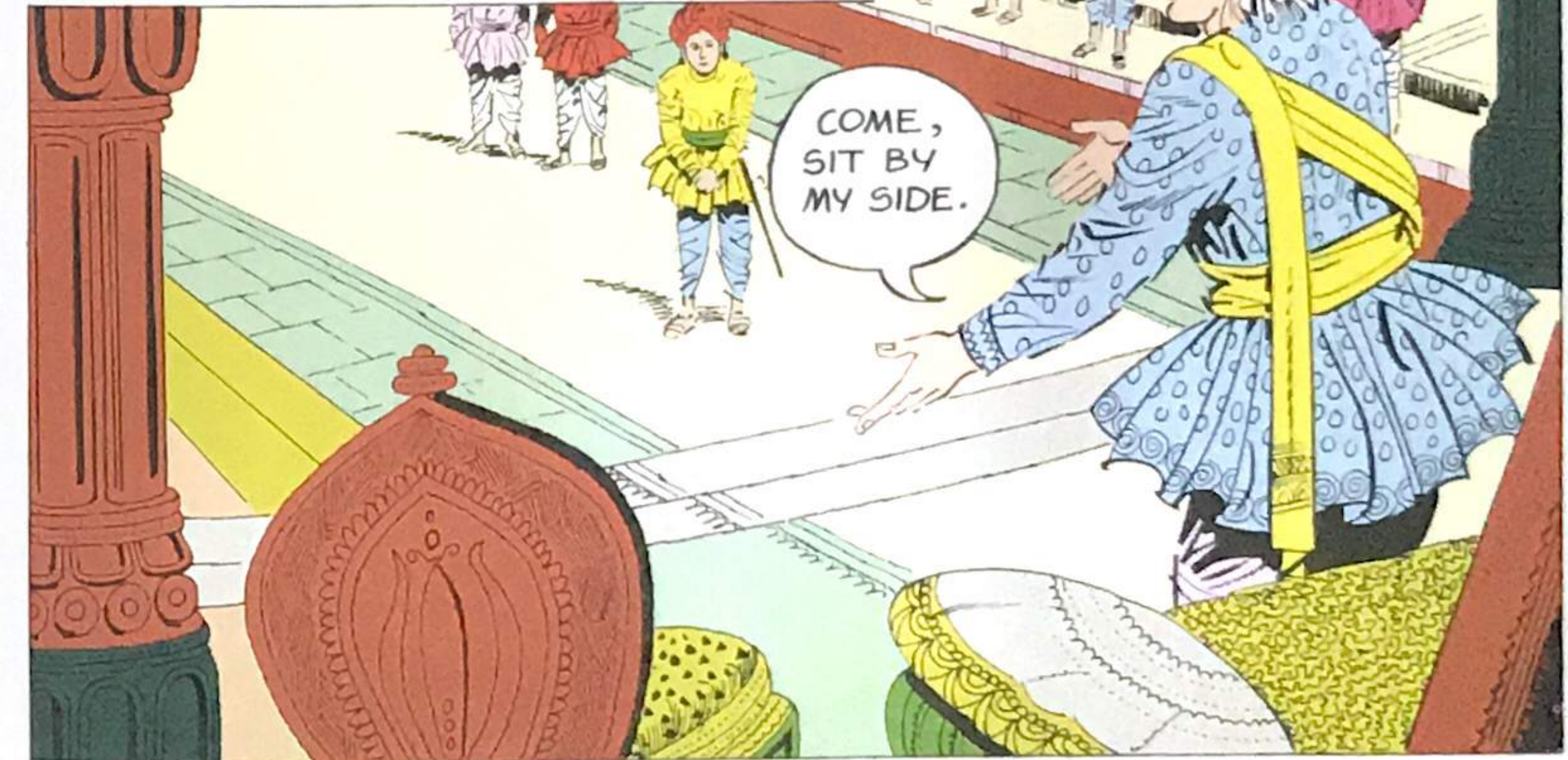


HUSH! TAKE CARE NOT TO DISTURB HIM.

A LITTLE LATER, GORAKHNATH INTERRUPTING HIS MEDITATION, STARED AT BAPPA. THEN -

BRILLIANT YOUNG MAN, A TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU WILL UNITE RAJASTHAN AND LEAD HER TO VICTORY! THIS MAGIC SWORD WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR MISSION.

BABA KI JAI!



COME, SIT BY MY SIDE.

RAJA MORI OBSERVED BAPPA FOR A FEW DAYS AND TESTED HIS ABILITIES. THEN -

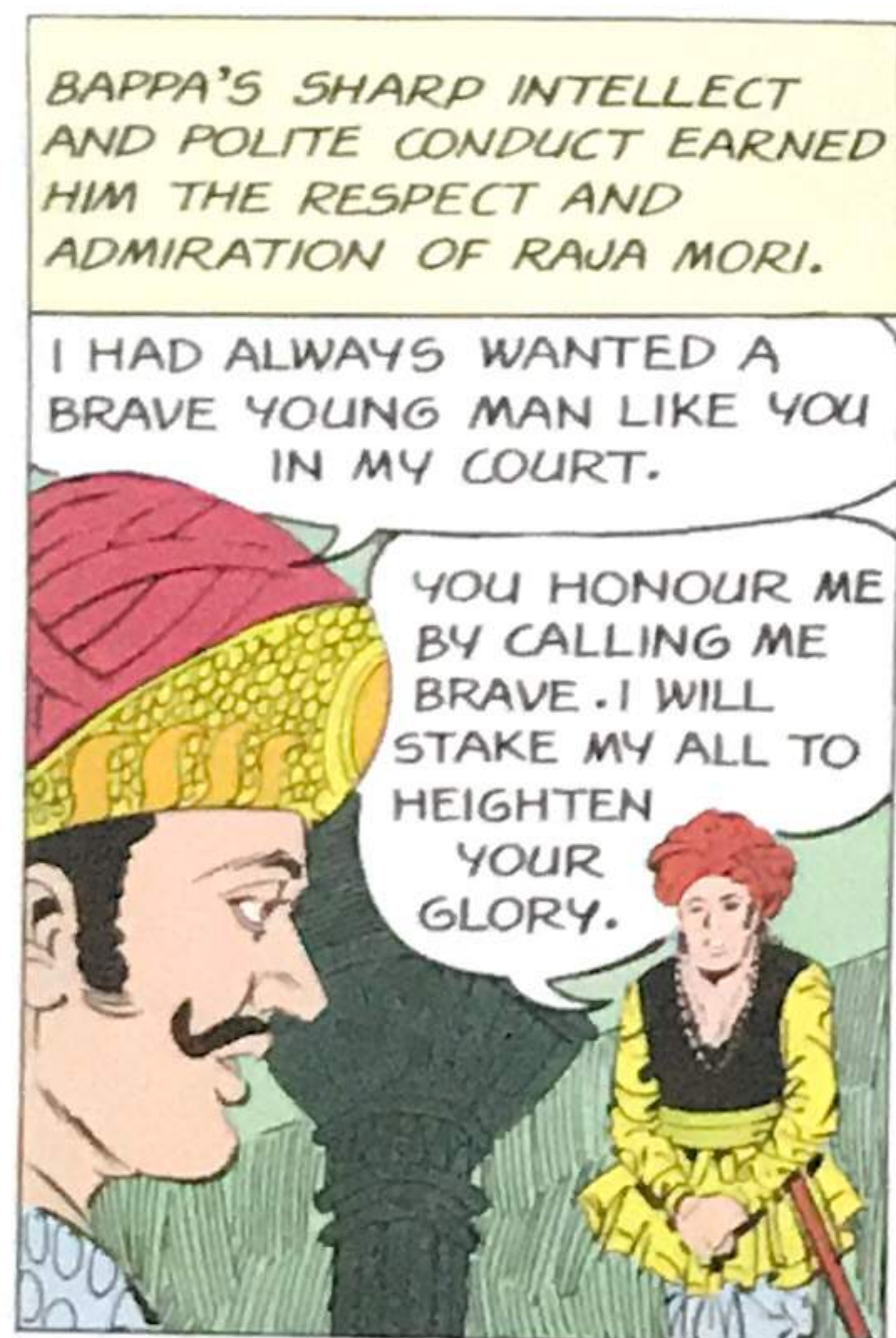
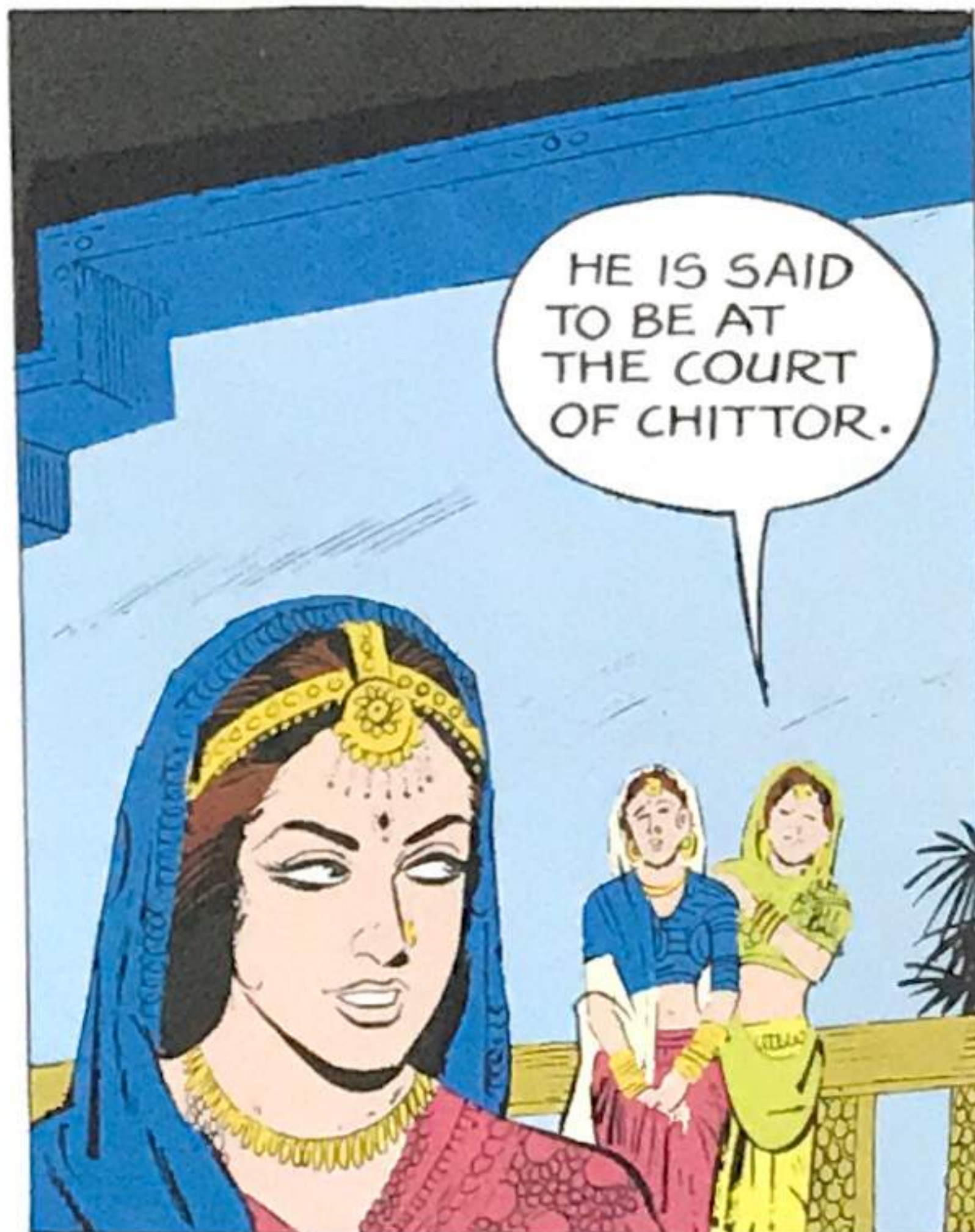
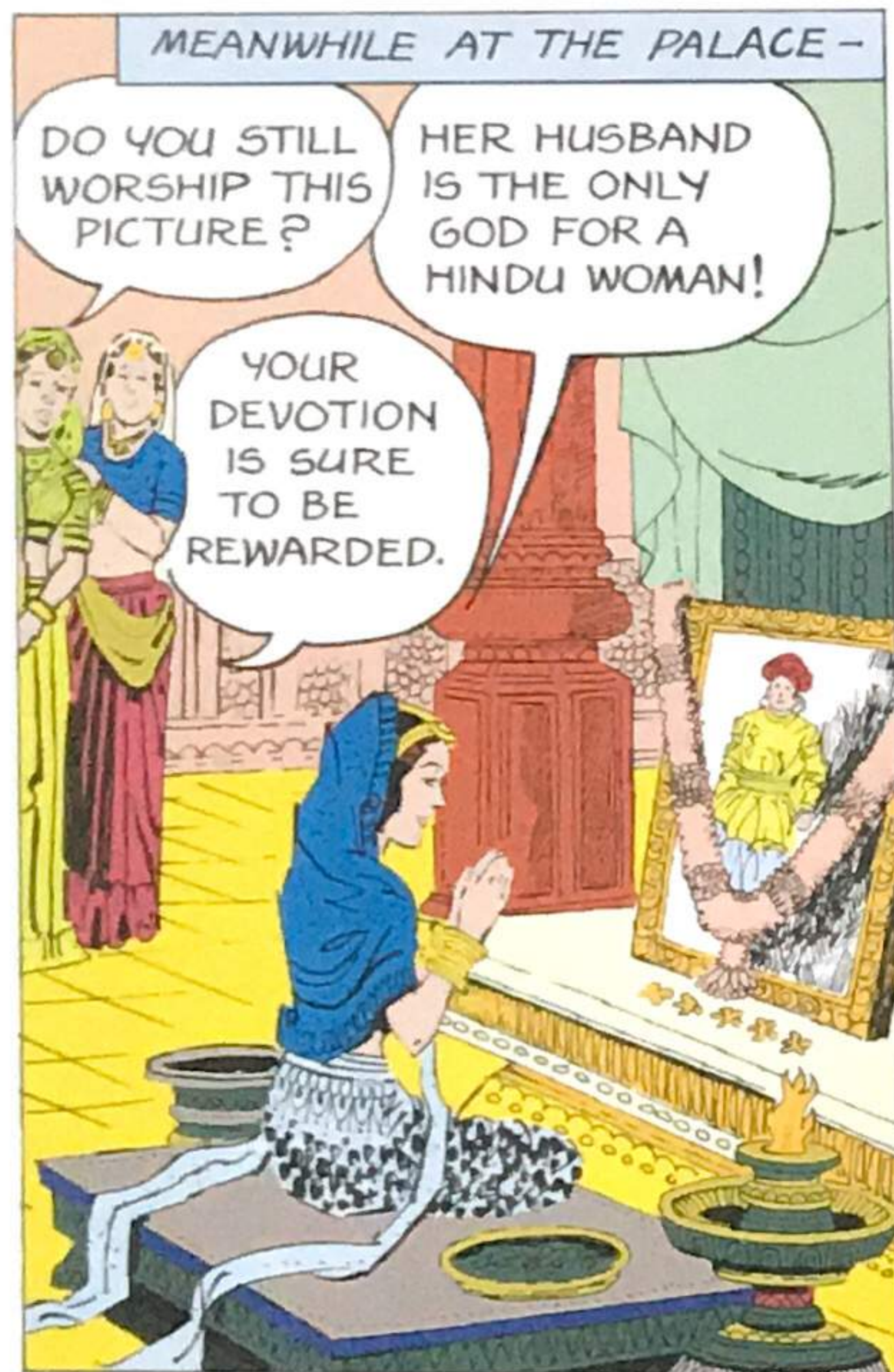


I BESTOW A SMALL ESTATE ON BAPPA RAWAL AND APPOINT HIM TO MY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

MAHARAJ KI...

JAI!



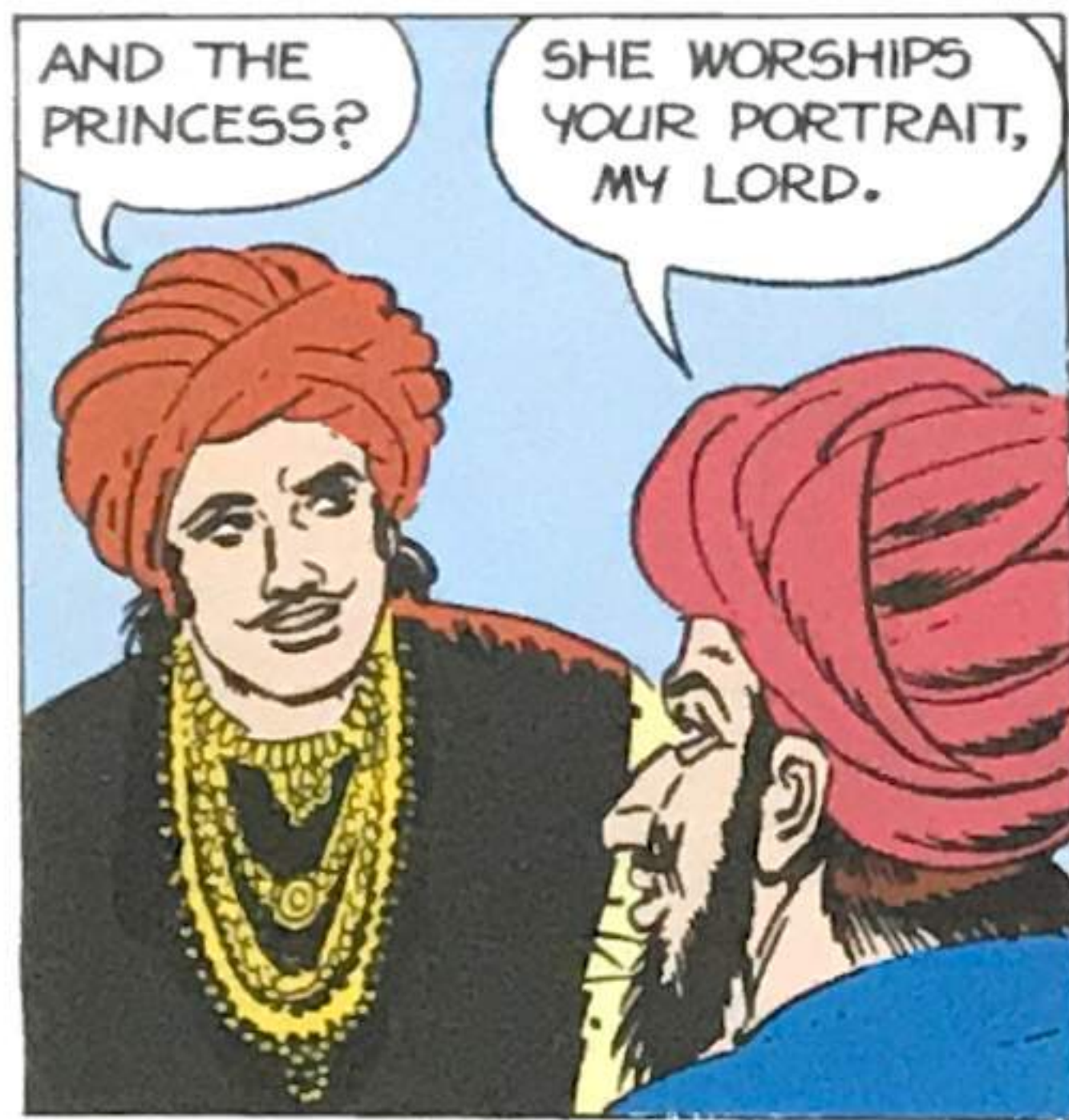


MEANWHILE NEWS OF BAPPA'S VALOUR REACHED THE SOLANKI RULER TOO. HE FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT HIM.

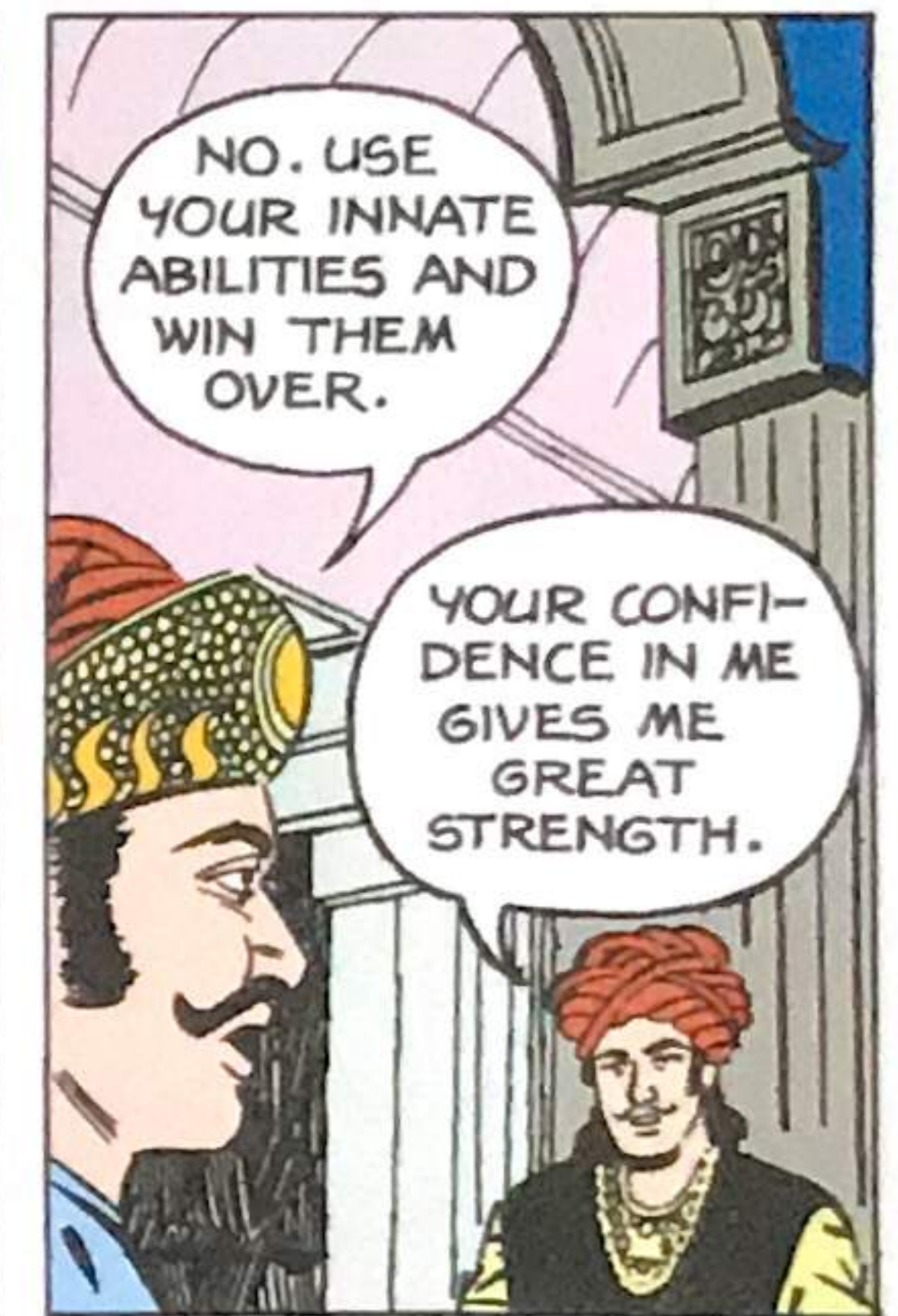
HE IS THE MOST ELIGIBLE YOUTH FOR MY DAUGHTER. I MUST SEND A PROPOSAL TO HIM!



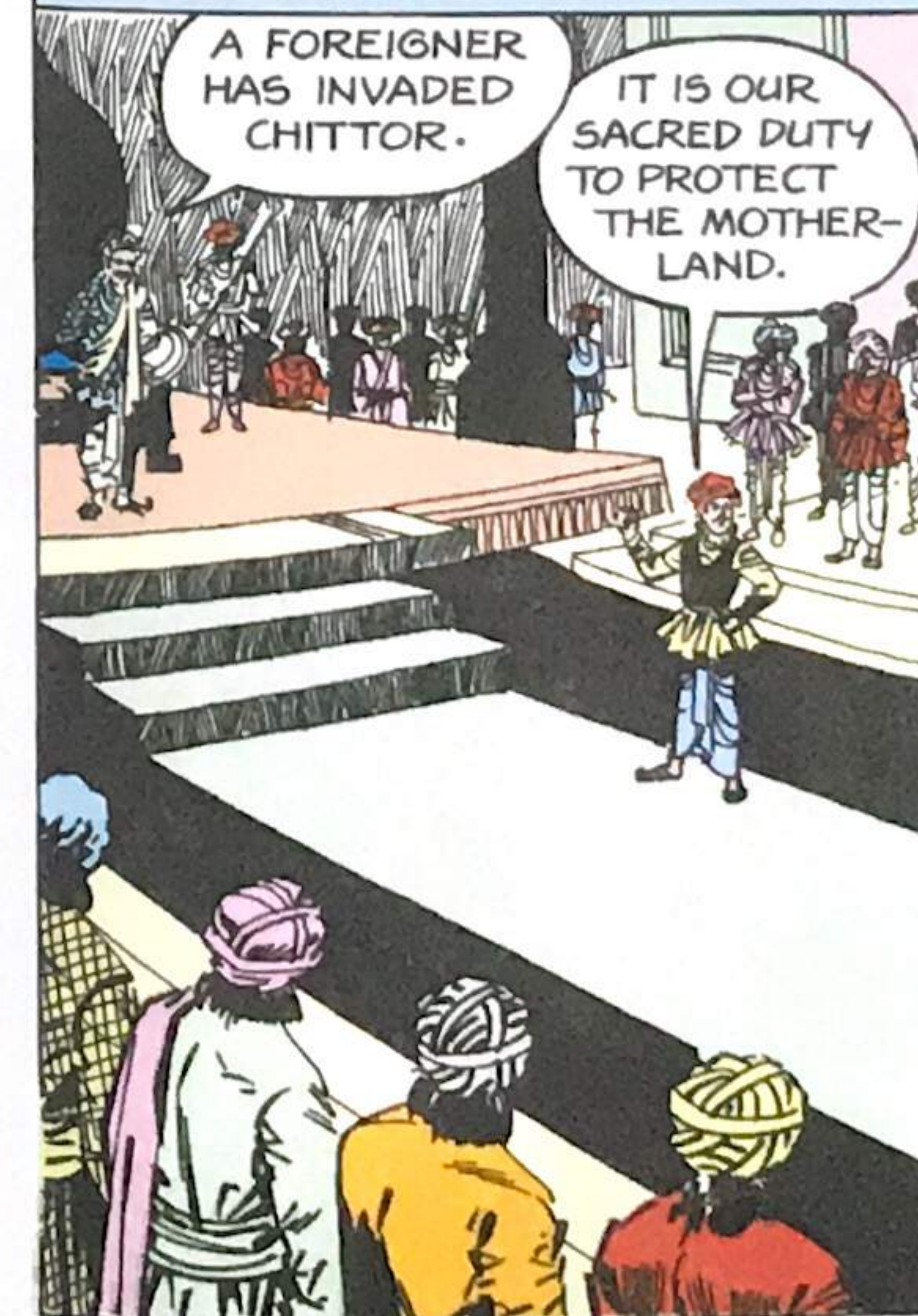




BAPPA WAS UNITED IN MARRIAGE TO THE PRINCESS.



MEANWHILE, AN ARAB RULER ADVANCED ON CHITTOR WITH HIS MIGHTY ARMIES.







THE TAUNT WAS TOO MUCH FOR BAPPA.

AND BRAVER, TOO!



DISPATCH YOUR MOST TRUSTED LIEUTENANT TO THE BATTLEFIELD. HE IS YOUNG...

...AND MORE EXPERIENCED THAN WE ARE.



THE SOLANKI RULER OF NAGDA SENT HIS ARMY WHICH ATTACKED FROM THE REAR. THE ENEMY UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE DOUBLE-PRONGED ATTACK, MADE A HASTY RETREAT.



JUST THEN A SOLDIER RAN UP TO BAPPA.

WHAT IS IT, MY MAN?

THE COUNCILLORS ARE ASHAMED. THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



TELL THEM IT'S TOO LATE. THE ENEMY HAS BEEN ROUTED!





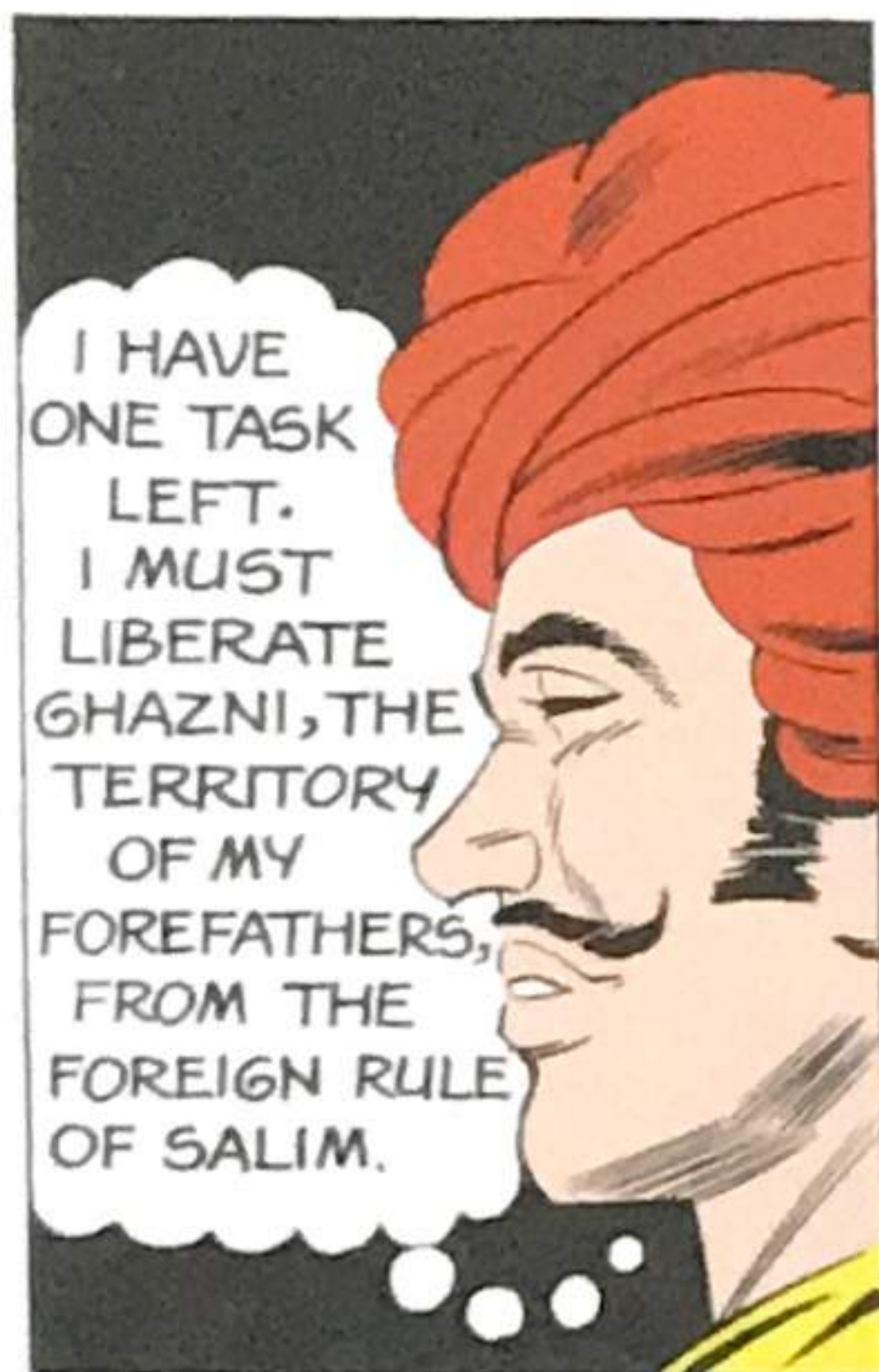


YOU MAY CONVEY THE HAPPY TIDINGS TO OUR KING.

BAPPA HAD PROVED HIMSELF. THE COUNCILLORS BEGAN SINGING HIS PRAISES.

WE ARE GLAD THAT CHITTOR HAS SUCH A BRAVE SON IN YOU!

WE ARE WITH YOU!

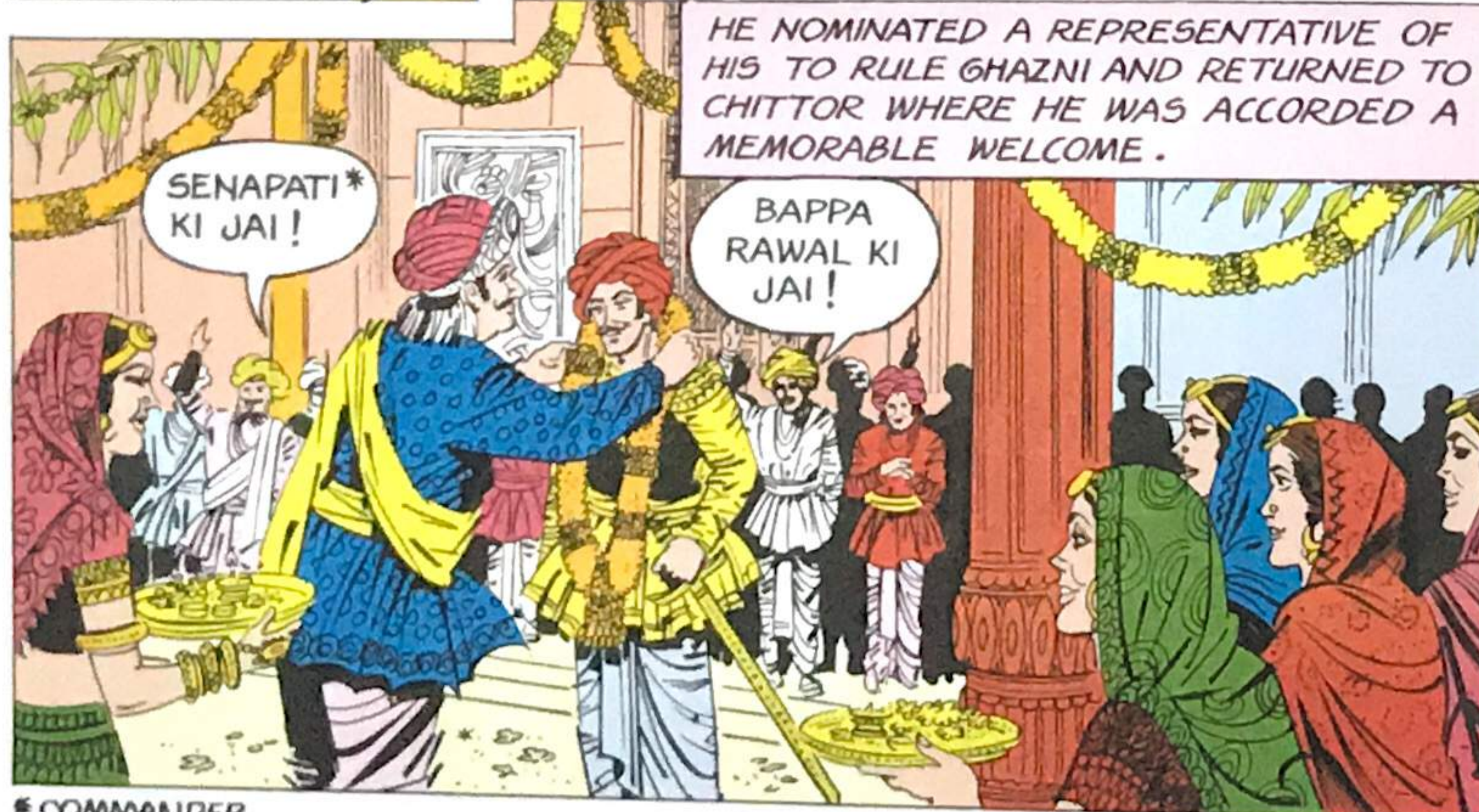


I HAVE ONE TASK LEFT. I MUST LIBERATE GHAZNI, THE TERRITORY OF MY FOREFATHERS, FROM THE FOREIGN RULE OF SALIM.



SO, INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO CHITTOR, BAPPA MARCHED ON TO GHAZNI AND DEFEATED AND CAPTURED SALIM.

HE NOMINATED A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS TO RULE GHAZNI AND RETURNED TO CHITTOR WHERE HE WAS ACCORDED A MEMORABLE WELCOME.



SENAPATI\* KI JAI!

BAPPA RAWAL KI JAI!

\* COMMANDER

A FEW DAYS LATER-

BAPPA, I AM GETTING ON IN YEARS. CHITTOR NEEDS A BRAVE AND EFFICIENT RULER LIKE YOU.

I AM YOUR SERVANT, UNCLE.



COUNCILLORS, OF MY FREE WILL I APPOINT BAPPA RAWAL MY SUCCESSOR.

BAPPA RAWAL KI JAI!

MAHARAJ KI JAI!



BAPPA WAS CROWNED AT AN AUSPICIOUS HOUR.

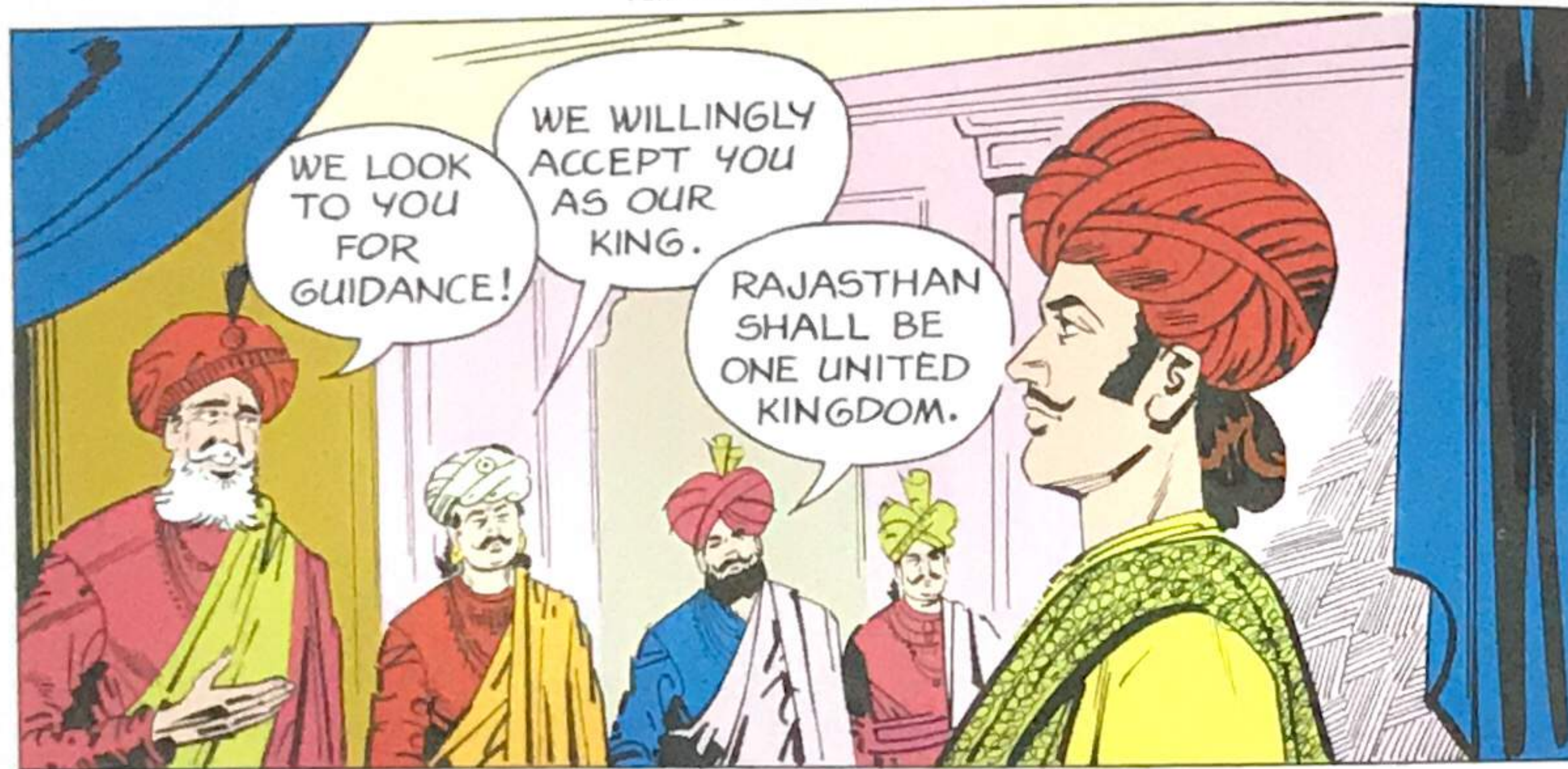


SOON AFTER THE CORONATION, BAPPA RAWAL INVITED ALL THE CHIEFTAINS OF THE NEIGHBOURING STATES TO CHITTOR.

FRIENDS, IF ONLY WE WERE UNITED, NO ONE FROM ACROSS THE BORDERS WOULD DARE TO ATTACK US...







THOUGH A NUMBER OF RULERS ACCEPTED BAPPA'S SUZERAINTY, ISPHAGUL, THE RULER OF BANDAR RESISTED. BUT -



HIS PROMISE FULFILLED, BAPPA RETURNED TO HIS MOTHER.

MOTHER, THE STATES OF RAJASTHAN HAVE MERGED TO FORM ONE UNITED WHOLE.

AND BAPPA IS THEIR CHOSEN KING.

I AM PROUD TO BE YOUR MOTHER.



BAPPA RAWAL AND HIS ARMIES INVADDED VARIOUS COUNTRIES INCLUDING ISPAHAN, KANDAHAR, IRAN, TURAN AND KHORASAN AND BROUGHT THEM UNDER INDIAN RULE. SEVERAL YEARS LATER HE RETURNED TO CHITTOR.



FOR MANY YEARS BAPPA RULED CHITTOR.

MINISTER, IS ALL WELL IN OUR STATE?

YOUR SUBJECTS ARE ALL HAPPY AND CONTENTED.



THEN HE HANDED OVER THE KINGDOM TO HIS SON AND WENT AWAY TO THE HIMALAYAS WHERE HE DIED AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF HUNDRED.

